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NO. 7509 SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1989 SHABAN 12, 1409 AH 16 PAGES 150 FILLS

14 die in Karachi ethnic gang fights

KARACHI, March 18. (Reuters) Savage fighting between rival ethnic gangs left 14 people dead in Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi, today, doctors said. "People have just gone mad," said an ambulance driver ferrying the dead and wounded from Malir-Khokhrapur in the east of Pakistan's biggest city. Troops sealed off the area and told people over loudspeakers to stay inside their homes.

It was the worst clash between the rival mohajir immigrant and Pashtun communities since Benazir Bhutto took over as civilian prime minister on Dec 2. About 900 people have died in ethnic riots in Karachi and neighbouring Hyderabad over the past two-and-a-half years. Sporadic fighting which broke out on March 10 had already cost 14 lives in the past eight days. Army curfews are in force in three suburbs. Today's flare-up, which doubled the total death toll to 28, was apparently sparked off by the discovery of two bullet-riddled bodies on the dried-up bed of Malir River yesterday. Witnesses said women, children and old men rushed screaming and weeping from the fighting. "It was a hellish scene," said the driver of an ambulance bringing the bullet-riddled body of a 27-year-old man to Karachi's Jinnah Hospital. Doctors could not give figures for the wounded. But the witnesses said dozens were hurt by bullets, knives, iron rods and chains. Police arrested scores of

residents of Malir-Khokhrapur, five km (three miles) east of Karachi International Airport. Ambulance drivers said their vehicles had come under fire and been pelted with stones. Firemen said rioters set alight shops and houses and prevented them from putting out the fires. Violence also broke out in Green Town, near the airport.

Israeli killed in guerrilla raid

Jordan captures Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 18. (Agencies) Two Palestinian guerrillas crossed the Jordanian border and ambushed an Israeli patrol last night, killing one soldier and wounding another the military announced today. Jordan said it seized an unspecified number of intruders from Israel early today, hours after the ambush and in the same area. It did not identify them. Israeli security forces also killed three more Palestinian protesters and wounded 22 in the most violent demonstrations in weeks in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Gaza residents said the three were killed in a clash sparked when para-military border police put up posters showing the demolished home of an Arab activist, intended to deter participation in the 15-month-old uprising. An Army spokesman confirmed two people died and six were wounded in the clash in Gaza city's Sheikh Radwan housing project. He said the Army clamped a curfew on the area and was investigating the circumstances of the shootings.



Assad (left) and Khaddafi in talks in Benghazi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ambushing
Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaking after last night's raid south of the Dead Sea, told Israel Radio that Palestinian "terror organisations" were determined to act on all fronts against the Jewish state.

The guerrillas, who also wounded an Israeli Army tracker, fled into Jordan after ambushing a patrol on the desert border near the southern settlement of Hatzeva. Rabin said Israel held Jordan responsible for cross-border raids. "We demand that the Jordanian government make sure that it is in control of its own territory to prevent this kind of activity."

A senior Jordanian official said Amman did not permit such raids. An official Jordanian statement reported that "infiltrators" from Israel had been captured at 7 am (0500 GMT) in the region of the ambush. The statement said the intruders were being questioned but did not give their nationalities. It was the fourth attack on Israel's borders in a week and seemed sure to fuel Israeli demands that the United States break off its dialogue with the PLO, that began last December when the PLO renounced terrorism.

In Damascus, an anti-Arafat Palestinian group said today its fighters had killed the Israeli soldier in a raid launched from a secret base in Jordan. A military spokesman for the Syrian-based Fatah Uprising Group led by Colonel Abu Musa, who rebelled against PLO chief Yasser Arafat in 1983, confirmed the two guerrillas had been arrested in Jordan after the raid. In previous border clashes this week, Israeli troops killed five Palestinian guerrillas in south Lebanon and captured two teenage gunmen who crossed from Egypt into the Israeli-held Gaza Strip.

Promise
One of the two captured Arab guerrillas told Israeli television viewers yesterday he was sent to kill 100 Israeli soldiers with 15 minutes of training and a promise of \$20,000. The guerrilla, identified as Iman Muhammad Hassan Younis, 18, described his mission to reporters on Israeli television, saying he was recruited by two men about two months ago. The two said they were members of Islamic Jihad, a fundamentalist group which follows Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini. "They told us that we have to attack an Army base full of 100

Syria, Libya seek joint opposition

DAMASCUS, March 18. (Reuters) Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi ended talks in Libya today that diplomats said probably focused on forging united Arab opposition to Israel. They said Colonel Khaddafi and Assad, both anti-Israel hardliners, believed Arab countries should make no concessions on the Palestinian issue. Syria and Libya are wary of an olive-branch offered to Israel late last year by the PLO which recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism.

Assad and Khaddafi met in Benghazi for talks officially described as dealing with Middle East developments, inter-Arab relations and the need to co-operate in defending Arab interests. Libya's JANA news agency, monitored by the BBC, said Assad ended the three-day visit today. His visit followed an eruption of Christian-Muslim fighting in Lebanon, where Syria is the main foreign power-broker and has about 25,000 troops.

Official sources in Beirut said today that the Middle East situation "requires the rallying of Arab resources to inject them into ... the Arab-Israeli conflict and deter the Zionist danger."

"We try to work together in light of our joint understanding ... and this time like other times we will try to review a number of incidents and developments which concern our people in both countries and the Arab nation," he said.

The official Syrian newspaper Tishreen said in an Editorial today that the Middle East situation "requires the rallying of Arab resources to inject them into ... the Arab-Israeli conflict and deter the Zionist danger."

His visit followed an eruption of Christian-Muslim fighting in Lebanon, where Syria is the main foreign power-broker and has about 25,000 troops.

Official confirmation was not immediately available. King Fahd sent three microwave broadcasting systems to Egypt yesterday as replacements for equipment damaged in a fire.

A fire on Tuesday gutted the top three floors of the 28-storey Cairo state radio and television building.

Jews," Younis said. "They lured us to do this by promising US\$20,000 and by showing us the Quran."

Each attack has brought calls by government officials for Washington to realise that the PLO cannot be a partner in peace negotiations. However Israeli intelligence sources and PLO officials say the border raids appear to be the work of groups opposed to Arafat and are aimed at sabotaging his peace initiative. The Bush administration has

made clear it will not break off contact with the PLO despite complaints about the border attacks, which the PLO says are acts of resistance against military targets.

The next formal US-PLO meeting is set for Wednesday in Tunis. The last incursion by Palestinian guerrillas from Jordan was in May 1988, when Israeli troops captured two Israeli-trained infiltrators in the northern Jordan valley.

Mohammed in the past had often threatened to use his supporters to recapture power. He has been tried in absentia in Aden and condemned as a traitor.

(Continued on Page 2)

Aquino calls on friends to be united against foes

MANILA, March 18. (AP) Philippine President Corason Aquino today called on her fractious friends to unite against her enemies. Aquino spoke during a convention of the Struggle of the Democratic Filipino Party, one of several political parties who supported her Feb 7, 1986 presidential run-off against the then President Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcos was declared winner of the fraud-tainted election, but a popular and military uprising that followed forced the former strongman into exile in Hawaii and brought Aquino to power. Aquino has survived at least half a dozen coup attempts during her three years in power. Her government also faces the 20-year-old communist rebellion and a smaller Muslim separatist war in the south.

Several of her supporters have been criticising the government's handling of the insurgencies and failure to make sweeping economic reforms. Others accuse some of her officials of being involved in graft.

Among her severest critics is her Vice-President, Salvador Laurel, who now leads the political opposition. Aquino said that while it was inevitable for differences to crop up among her supporters, "the ground for agreement should be equally broad and compelling," otherwise leftist and rightist extremists would take advantage of the divisions.

"Let us work together where we agree, and respect each other where we do not agree. Let us never doubt each other's patriotism," she said.

(See Filipino Digest Page 9)

End of the road for hijacker

Soviet hijacker Vladimir Muraviev is being restrained and gagged with a towel in a Moscow court after breaking down as the judge sentenced him to 14 years in jail for his part in the abduction of a busfull of schoolchildren in Ordzhonikidze. A teacher, Natalia Dzagoyeva (right) who was in charge of the children appears in a pensive mood as the judge announced the sentences. (Reuters wirephoto)

Special contract for expatriates

By Salem Al Wawan
THE government may soon introduce special contracts valid for one year for expatriate employees. The special contracts for public servants will be renewed only if their services are needed. The move will affect all expatriate employees who work on grade systems with the government. All ministries and government establishments will be asked by the Civil Service Commission to submit a list of names of the expatriate employees. The change from the grade system was in principle approved by the Civil Service Commission, though no firm date for its implementation has been stipulated.

US might send envoy to Afghan guerrillas

WASHINGTON, March 18. (Agencies) US Secretary of State James Baker is close to naming a special ambassador to the Afghan guerrillas fighting to oust the communist government in Kabul, the Washington Post said today.

The Post, quoting diplomatic and congressional sources, said the move would be partly aimed at curbing the political influence of Pakistan, through which the United States has pumped more than \$1 billion in aid to the rebels since the early 1980s. State Department officials have recommended to Baker that he make the appointment, and Baker favours the idea, the Post quoted its sources as saying.

Recognition

A special ambassador however, would not imply US recognition of an interim government set up by the rebels following the Soviet withdrawal on Feb 15. The State Department accused the Soviet Union of increasing arms supplies to its allies in Afghanistan, including medium-range Scud ballistic missiles. It also said Soviets should know that Pakistan has our full support.

In the accusation against the Soviets, State Department spokesman Charles Redman was responding to an interview by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov. The Soviet official talked of Pakistan's "direct and growing military intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan," which, he said, is "tantamount to the beginning of a Pakistan-Afghan war."

Afghanistan said today it would show two captured Pakistani officers to the world's press tomorrow to prove direct interference by Islamabad in the Afghan fighting. Afghan warplanes have mounted more bombing raids on guerrillas fighting to take the strategic Afghan city of Jalalabad, and the insurgents claim that government soldiers were among those killed.

Guerrillas claimed yesterday that more than 100 people may have been killed in the latest fighting for control of the city, where the insurgents launched an offensive nearly two weeks ago.

Suitcase hiding bomb identified

WASHINGTON, March 18. (Agencies) Investigators believe they have recovered shards of the suitcase that contained the plastic explosive that destroyed a Pan Am jet over Scotland, the New York Times disclosed here today.

The fragments are being chemically analysed for clues to the bag's maker and its owner, details that may point to the person or group that put the bomb aboard the jet, said the paper, quoting two top government officials. One Bush administration official was quoted as saying that investigators "got the pieces affected most directly by the blast and they are analysing them. But definitely, they have not found whose bag it was yet."

In London, a senior police official said today that the explosive was hidden in a radio cassette player, a discovery that may be linked to West German warnings last November to British and American officials and airlines, including Pan Am and Trans World Airways. The warning told the concerned parties to be on the lookout between Nov 6 and Nov 10 for a Toshiba Bombeat 453 radio-cassette player, packed with Semtex plastic explosives and rigged to detonate while an airplane was in flight, West German officials said yesterday.

In Edinburgh, Scotland's senior law officer, Lord Peter Fraser, said yesterday that police determined the type of baggage that contained the bomb but not who planted it. "It is not only known that the bomb was contained within a tape recorder of a cassette type, but the type of the item of baggage in which that tape recorder was contained is now known and that will allow the police to take a further step forward in the inquiries they are making both on a national and an international basis," Fraser said.

At least four British newspapers yesterday reported the bomber had been identified and was under arrest or surveillance but the reports were denied by US, British and West German officials. US Secretary of Transportation Samuel Skinner said senior member of his staff will fly to the United Kingdom and West Germany this weekend to discuss security with other transportation officials. Britain has ordered airports to inspect electrical equipment carried by passengers following the bombing, news reports said today. A Department of Transport spokesman declined to comment on the reports, but BBC Radio said passengers would have to carry electrical equipment in their hand luggage to make inspection easier.

In Budapest, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday West Germany and Britain had not helped PLO investigations into whether a Palestinian group had bombed the Pan Am jumbo. The contents of those instructions were not made public but the sources told KUNA that US is trying to arrange a meeting between Army commander Gen Michel Aoun and Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss, either in Beirut or in some Arab capital. Christian-led Army troops and Muslim militiamen battled with tanks and artillery in the hills overlooking Beirut today.

Efforts to stabilise Lebanese situation

KUWAIT, March 18. (Agencies) The chairman of the Arab League committee set up to solve the Lebanese crisis said today it would invite former Lebanese presidents and prime ministers to meet with it in Tunis next week. Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed told reporters the meeting would take place before an Arab foreign ministers conference scheduled for March 26, but he gave no precise date.

The six-man committee has already held two rounds of talks with Lebanese religious and political leaders to find a way out of Lebanon's worst post-independence political crisis. The country has had no president, two rival governments, a paralysed parliament and a fractured Army since last September.

A flare-up of fighting in Beirut last week that killed 50 people forced the indefinite postponement of a decisive third round of talks in Kuwait with party and militia chiefs.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti daily Al Sayassah has learned that the main cause of the recent fighting is basic differences between the United States and Syria on means of reaching a political solution in Lebanon.

US State Department officials said in Washington, the Bush administration is conducting extensive efforts to "stabilise" the Lebanese situation. The officials, speaking to Kuwait News Agency on condition of anonymity, said detailed instructions have gone out of Washington this week to American ambassadors in Lebanon, Syria, and a number of Arab countries aimed at calming the situation in that war-torn country.

The contents of those instructions were not made public but the sources told KUNA that US is trying to arrange a meeting between Army commander Gen Michel Aoun and Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss, either in Beirut or in some Arab capital. Christian-led Army troops and Muslim militiamen battled with tanks and artillery in the hills overlooking Beirut today.

Mohammed, who has been living in North Yemen since his bloody ouster in a 12-day civil war in Aden January 1986, told the UAE newspaper Al Itihad that he no longer had ambitions for power. "What matters now is achieving security, stability and unity. I am no longer interested in power," said Mohammed who often vowed to regain power. He said the Sanaa and Aden governments were in contact for the return of some 40,000 supporters, and that he supports these contacts as long as the refugees are given political and security guarantees. Aden has refused to allow him and five of his aides to return to their homes. However, he said: "I am willing to live with 10 or 20 of my people, but let the others go back home."

Al Itihad quoted unnamed sources in Sanaa as saying the two governments were on the verge of announcing an agreement for the return of the refugees.

Yemens in contact for return of refugees

ABU DHABI, March 18. (AP) Ali Nasser Mohammed, the exiled President of Marxist South Yemen, disclosed today that contacts were under way to repatriate his followers even though Aden has rejected his own return.

Mohammed, who has been living in North Yemen since his bloody ouster in a 12-day civil war in Aden January 1986, told the UAE newspaper Al Itihad

that he no longer had ambitions for power. "What matters now is achieving security, stability and unity. I am no longer interested in power," said Mohammed who often vowed to regain power. He said the Sanaa and Aden governments were in contact for the return of some 40,000 supporters, and that he supports these contacts as long as the refugees are given political and security guarantees. Aden has refused to allow him and five of his aides to return to their homes. However, he said: "I am willing to live with 10 or 20 of my people, but let the others go back home."

Al Itihad quoted unnamed sources in Sanaa as saying the two governments were on the verge of announcing an agreement for the return of the refugees.

The paper estimated that about 50,000 of Mohammed's supporters, who had fled into refuge with him across the mountainous border regions separating the two countries after the civil war, were presently living in camps in North Yemen.

Mohammed in the past had often threatened to use his supporters to recapture power. He has been tried in absentia in Aden and condemned as a traitor.

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- آج کے اردو صفحات میں
- کراچی میں نسلی فسادات کی
 - تی لبر ۱۳ مارچ
 - امریکہ پاکستان کی حمایت
 - جاری رکھے گا
 - بیروت میں بحر شدید
 - جنرل شروع ہو گئیں
 - اسرائیلی فوج نے مزید تین
 - فلسطینی شہید کر دیے
 - بیروتی دستہ ایرانی بچوں کے
 - باپ کی چتا

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light to moderate north-westerly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 11.30 am, 10.00 pm
Low water: 5.00 am, 4.30 pm
Sunrise: 5.53 am
Sunset: 5.59 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 18°C 64°F
Abu Dhabi: 18°C 64°F
Faisalabad: 17°C 63°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 16°C 61°F
Abu Dhabi: 17°C 63°F
Faisalabad: 16°C 61°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 22°C 72°F
Abu Dhabi: 20°C 68°F
Faisalabad: 20°C 68°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 76 per cent
Abu Dhabi: 90 per cent
Faisalabad: 90 per cent



Chilean President Augusto Pinochet eats some Chilean grapes during his visit to a shipping plant in Santiago. (Reuter wirephoto)

US steps up imports inspection

Ban on Chilean fruits lifted

WASHINGTON, March 18, (AP) The US government has cleared the way for shipments of Chilean produce to American supermarkets and announced plans for stepped-up inspections after a health scare sparked by cyanide-tainted grapes from Chile.

A few hours after the United States announced its new import inspection plan yesterday, Canada lifted a ban on Chilean grapes, berries and vegetables.

And Japan today lifted its ban on Chilean grapes. Under the US plan, Chilean fruit already held by importers, wholesalers and retailers in the United States is to be destroyed "to eliminate fruit that

cannot be practically inspected," said Frank Young, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

Canadian Health Minister Perrin Beatty, in announcing the end of the 5-day-old embargo, also ordered retailers and wholesalers to destroy the millions of dollars worth of Chilean fruit they have in storage.

The decision to lift the ban came after Canada was assured by the Chilean government that tight security measures have been put in place for harvesting and transporting of fruit and vegetables.

De Klerk denies power struggle

Botha vows to remain

JOHANNESBURG, March 18, (Agencies): National Party leader F.W. De Klerk yesterday denied he was trying to oust President P.W. Botha but concerned that their awkward relationship needed to be clarified.

The main white opposition party, meanwhile, said De Klerk lacked the political strength to complete the "mini-coup" he launched while Botha was recovering from a stroke.

De Klerk, the education minister, became head of the governing National Party on Feb 2 when Botha resigned from the post two weeks after suffering a stroke. The National Party's parliamentary caucus resolved this week that it wants De Klerk to become President. However, Botha returned to office on Wednesday and has vowed to remain in his post indefinitely, regardless of the wishes of his party.

"It is my and my party's wish that the relationship with (Botha) shall remain warm, sincere and healthy," De Klerk said in Parliament in Cape Town. "Be calm. We will find a sensible way."

De Klerk also said that a new constitution — presumably one that would include the black majority — would have to be introduced to replace the one Botha helped introduce in 1984. "The National Party remains committed to its goal of power



With his wife Elize standing by, Botha signs a document on Thursday, the day after he resumed his duty. (Reuter wirephoto)

sharing," said De Klerk. "A new constitution, differing substantially from what we have today, must come about."

The role of the President would have to be "reviewed drastically," De Klerk added.

Malaysia bans ads portraying Western styles

KOTA BARU, Malaysia, March 18, (UPI): All television advertisements portraying Western styles with Caucasian models will be banned in Malaysia starting July 1, officials announced yesterday.

Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat said ads which reflect the superiority of Western lifestyles are regarded by many as an attempt to alter Malaysian identity.

"Such portrayals are not fair," said Mohamed. "I don't see any similarities between the Malaysian features and the features which the advertisers have tried to project," he told journalists after opening an orientation course for information officers.

Soviet-Japan talks soon

Peace treaty to be discussed

MOSCOW, March 18, (AP): Soviet and Japanese negotiators have scheduled meetings next week in Tokyo to discuss a peace treaty that would formally end their World War II hostilities, the official news agency Tass reported.

The treaty talks were arranged during Soviet Foreign Minister

Eduard Shevardnadze's trip to Japan in December, Tass said. The Soviet Union and Japan still have a strong disagreement over the Kurile islands, or northern territories, which the Soviets took over from Japan at the end of the war in 1945.

The Tass report said the treaty talks on Tuesday will follow

meetings on Sunday and Monday at the deputy foreign minister level. Tass said the Soviet side is willing to discuss any issue but said talks cannot be limited to the territorial problem.

During Shevardnadze's visit to Japan, the Soviet foreign minister re-established dialogue on a treaty.



Joan Collins poses with her look-alike at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum. (Reuter wirephoto)

Police on alert
Tory party meeting opens

SCARBOROUGH, England, March 18, (Reuters): Fears of a new IRA attack on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher overshadowed a meeting of Britain's ruling Conservative Party that opened yesterday amid tight security.

Police, alerted by the discovery last week of an arms cache near this northern seaside resort, sealed off a large area around the conference centre where Thatcher was due to deliver the closing address of the two-day conference today.

Thatcher escaped an Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb attack in 1984 which killed five people at her hotel during a party conference at Brighton, southern England.

Arrested

Police said a man and a woman, believed to be West Germans, were arrested just outside the top-security area after a search of their motor-caravan revealed a firearm.

"The firearm is believed to be a handgun loaded with blanks," a north Yorkshire police statement said.

Conservative Party vice-chairman Tom Arnold told reporters he understood the pair had told police they were on a world tour and kept the gun for protection.

"At the moment the advice from police is that they see no connection between this incident and the conference ... (but) it shows security precautions are working," he said.

In Belfast, the Irish Republican Army yesterday claimed responsibility for killing the Protestant owner of a Belfast grocery store and warned of more murders to come.

Jackie Irvine, 50, was the latest victim in a round of tit-for-tat sectarian attacks that began Feb 12 with the killing of a Roman Catholic lawyer.

The IRA's Belfast brigade claimed Irvine was an active member of an outlawed Protestant paramilitary group, which it did not identify. It said there were clear indications he had been involved in recent sectarian murders of Catholics.

In mainly Catholic west Belfast, a bomb exploded close to a joint Army and police foot patrol yesterday but nobody was injured, the Royal Ulster Constabulary said. The blast occurred as the patrol was being positioned to guard the annual St Patrick's Day parade.

Hormone helps fight jet lag

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): Jet lag can be alleviated by giving passengers extra doses of a natural hormone found in the brain, researchers said today.

Volunteers who flew across 12 time zones from New Zealand to London and then returned three weeks later were given doses of the hormone melatonin, which is released by the pineal gland of the brain at night.

"Melatonin can alleviate jet lag and tiredness after long-haul flights," said a paper written by three New Zealand doctors and published in the British Medical Journal.

Israeli killed

(Continued from Page 1) Military officials said they could not remember an attack in the rugged, largely unpopulated southern border area where yesterday's infiltration occurred.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, hoping to strengthen his hand before a trip to Washington, convenes more than 1,000 prominent Jewish leaders from 30 countries on Monday for a show of solidarity with Israel.

\$25,000 reward for information on bombing

SAN DIEGO, March 18, (UPI) Rewards of more than \$25,000 have been offered for information leading to an arrest in the bombing of a van driven by the wife of the Vincennes skipper, police said yesterday.

Word of the rewards came as Will C. Rogers IV, the son of the Vincennes' commander, a sophomore at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, was moved off campus by agents of the naval investigative service as a security precaution, a university spokesman said.

"He's been under federal protection since the incident and we're co-operating with the authorities

in any way we can," said Colgate spokesman James Leach.

In San Diego, a reward of \$25,000, put up by an anonymous donor, was followed by a second \$1,000 reward offered by a private anti-crime organization, police spokesman Bill Robinson said.

The rewards were announced a day after Sharon Rogers, who escaped injury when the van she was driving exploded at an intersection near her suburban San Diego home, quit her teaching job at the exclusive La Jolla country day school after parents expressed concerns over student safety.

NEWS IN BRIEF

French police detain Zaza

NICE, France, March 18, (AP): French police said they arrested yesterday Camorra kingpin Michel Zaza, a long-sought leader of the violent Neapolitan crime gang, at the town of Villeneuve-Loubet on the Cote d'Azur.

Zaza, 42, was sought by Italian police on two international arrest warrants issued at Genoa and Rome on a string of charges including belonging to a criminal organisation, corrupting officials and murder.

Zaza was nabbed by a team of anti-narcotics police from Marseille at Villeneuve-Loubet on the outskirts of Nice.

Shuttle Discovery lands

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., March 18, (Reuters): The space shuttle Discovery completed the first manned US space flight of 1989 today with a perfect landing in the California desert.

After a five-day mission, the shuttle and its crew of five glided onto the surface of a dry lake bed to the cheers of an estimated 450,000 spectators.

Plane crash kills crewmen

FORT WORTH, Texas, March 18, (UPI): A DC-9 airplane carrying explosives for the military crashed after takeoff from Carswell Air Force base early today, killing its two crew members, officials said.

Officials at the base were not immediately releasing the identities of the two crew members killed in the crash of the chartered civilian plane. They were apparently the only people aboard the plane.

Tibetan monks protest in Delhi

NEW DELHI, March 18, (AP): More than 200 Tibetan monks and nuns marched silently to a war memorial in New Delhi today to protest Chinese rule in their homeland, a spokesman said.

The clerics marched nearly five kilometres (three miles) from the Yamuna River to India Gate, the country's monument to soldiers killed in World War I, said Soepa Gyaiso.

South African poet detained

JOHANNESBURG, March 18, (Reuters): One of South Africa's leading black poets, Mzwakhe Mbuli, has been arrested on a charge of possessing explosives, a spokesman for his lawyers said today.

Scandals set to haunt Papandreou until polls

4 ministers out in reshuffle

ATHENS, March 18, (Reuters): Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou is heading for elections in June with the scent of scandal still clinging to his socialist government.

Papandreou, 70, reshuffled his cabinet yesterday, but failed to live up to expectations that he would shake off a \$200-million bank scandal which has hampered his administration for the past five months.

Only four ministers left the government and key ministries were left unchanged.

Official sources said several respected socialists outside the government were approached to join the cabinet, but refused unless there was a complete house-cleaning.

Political commentators said Papandreou had run out of choices for fresh faces ahead of the June 18 elections, when he is bidding for a third consecutive four-year term.

"There are no new faces and those not involved in the scandal, although asked, refused to join three months before the elections," a Western diplomat in Athens said.

"Becoming a socialist minister under present conditions may be more of a curse than a blessing," he added.

Several ministers linked in press reports to the man at the centre of the scandal, fugitive banker George Koskotas, retained their posts.

Koskotas, 35, fled the country on Nov 6 while he was under police surveillance after being charged with embezzling \$200 million in bank funds.

Fourteen state companies have been formally charged with having illegal deposits in the private Bank of Crete, which Koskotas once owned. The banker has said in a number of interviews that government officials embezzled the interest.

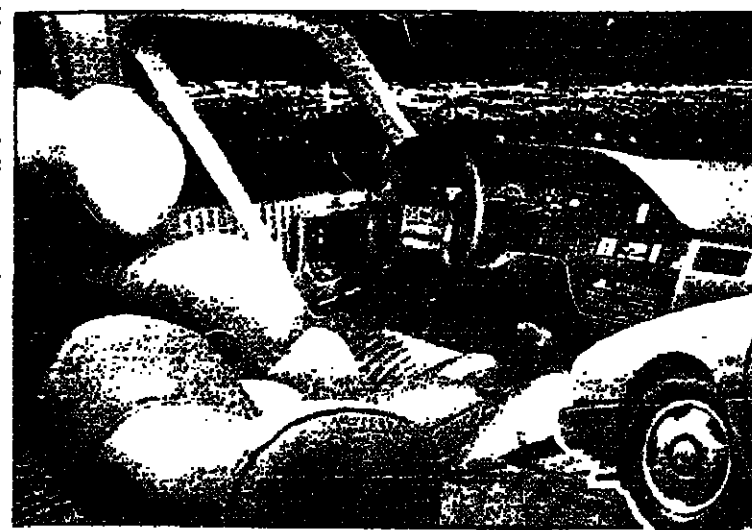
Excitement... redefined by the new Pontiac Bonneville SSE

Enter a truly amazing car, the new Bonneville SSE. Stationary or in motion, it is a car that redefines excitement. Its styling is accentuated by sleek, aerodynamic lines and colour-coordinated trim including wheels. Its interior is modern, with full instrumentation. The radio/cassette player controls are duplicated in the steering wheel. Air-conditioning is automatic with climate control and the Bonneville has a 4-directions sliding sunroof.

In motion, the SSE accelerates effortlessly due to its powerful state-of-the-art 3.8 lt. fuel-injected V-6 engine that develops 165 horsepower. Experience the ride with a smooth-shifting automatic gearbox and independent suspension. Safe braking is assured with anti-lock ABS brakes.

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Government has broken pledge, says Solidarity

WARSAW, March 18, (AP): The banned trade union Solidarity said the government broke commitments to opposition negotiators by sending a political reform package to Parliament that did not contain measures agreed upon in their talks.

The government later issued a statement saying it sent the bills to Parliament to allow discussions among deputies to begin, and not to prejudice any agreement with the opposition.

Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz said at a news conference that agreements reached in talks between the government and the opposition were not included in draft legislation sent to the Sejm, or Parliament.

"If the authorities go ahead with the draft law on electoral procedure, the senate and the presidency, the entire contract (with the opposition) may be broken," Onyszkiewicz said.

Government and opposition leaders had agreed in principle at talks that began on Feb 6 to allow democratic elections to a new senate and to open up 35 per cent to the Sejm to the independent opposition, whose candidates would take part in elections.

The elections would be the first fully democratic elections in the communist bloc.

Both sides also agreed that Solidarity and other banned groups would be legalised, and Poland would get a strong president who would serve the next six or seven years.

"After all these debates we thought that we had reached an agreement on certain things that are not reflected in the draft sent to the Sejm," Onyszkiewicz said, referring to the discussions between government and opposition leaders that have been referred to as "round-table talks."

The draft "puts all of the discussions of the round-table under a question mark," he said.

"The talks at the round-table find themselves in a serious crisis," he said. "We want to express our anxiety over how the talks will end. At the moment, the impasse is very deep."

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban, in a statement issued late last night by the official PAP news agency, said he was "surprised at this dramatising of the situation."

Cheney faces uphill task at the Pentagon

WASHINGTON, March 18, (Reuters): Nine days ago, Dick Cheney was a little-known, though bright and articulate Republican congressman from Wyoming.

On Friday, he quit the House of Representatives and moved into one of the most difficult jobs in the US government after the Senate confirmed him 92-0 as Defence Secretary.

Within hours of the vote, Cheney was sworn-in and moved to the Pentagon to tackle such problems as slashing \$6.3 billion from the 1990 military budget and fixing the arms acquisition process, rocked

by a fraud and bribery scandal.

Cheney, 48, was nominated to the cabinet by President Bush March 10, one day after the Senate rejected John Tower as Bush's first choice to head the Pentagon. Tower lost amid allegations that he drank heavily and was a womaniser.

Cheney told senators his first task, "perhaps the most important thing I will do at the Defence Department," will be to seek good senior managers to help him plan strategy and weapons programmes despite budget-balancing cuts.

Cheney took over the Pentagon job from acting

Defence Secretary William Taft, who previously was Deputy Secretary and has served in a caretaker role since Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci left office with President Ronald Reagan in January.

The new secretary was the second-ranking Republican official in the House after representing Wyoming for 10 years. He also served previously as White House chief of staff under former President Ford.

Cheney, admired in Congress as a manager and thoughtful decision-maker, will need both qualities in dealing with a defence establishment that faces

major cuts after a record \$2.5 trillion peacetime US military buildup under Reagan.

At the Defence Department, Cheney must begin helping Bush decide soon how to mobilise US land-based strategic missiles and where to begin eliminating or stretching out weapons programmes in a government effort to balance the US budget.

Cheney told the Senate Armed Services Committee this week he was suspicious of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's ability to reform the Soviet system and he cautioned Congress and US allies against making unilateral cuts in defence spending.

El Salvador braces for violence on election day

SAN SALVADOR, March 18, (UPI): On the eve of a crucial presidential election, authorities today braced for another round of violence by leftist rebels who have vowed to disrupt the voting and virtually paralysed public transportation.

Ailing President Jose Napoleon Duarte warned that political gains by rightists in the election tomorrow could endanger democracy in El Salvador and called on the Bush administration to impose conditions on US aid.

"President Bush must set limits by which aid can be given, if these principal points are observed," Duarte told United Press International. He said the principal points were democratic values such as respect for freedom and human life.

At the White House, Bush said he was sending a 30-member delegation — composed of members of Congress, state and local government officials and private citizens — to El Salvador as official election observers.

Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, known by the Spanish acronym FMLN, urged supporters to boycott the election after negotiations between the rebels and Salvadoran political parties collapsed.

The rebels, who have been fighting the nation's US-backed government for nearly nine years, earlier proposed the postponement of the elections until Sept 15 in return for FMLN participation in the campaign.

They have vowed to enforce a transportation stoppage prior to the election and attack polling places throughout the country tomorrow.

The rebel warning and series of attacks have kept security forces and officials on alert today for further bloodshed before and during the election.

Government soldiers armed with automatic rifles patrolled the streets of San Salvador, sporadically stopping cars and asking the occupants to identify themselves.

Most of the capital has been without electricity and water since Thursday because of guerrilla attacks on power lines.



Female guerrilla
A 16-year-old woman with a US-made carbine sits with a group of other M-19 rebels last month in Pueblo Nuevo, an M-19 camp in Cauca, 400 kms southwest of Bogota. (Reuters wirephoto).

Ban on rifles Back off, Bennett warned by NRA

WASHINGTON, March 18, (UPI): An angry US drug czar, William Bennett, said he believes the National Rifle Association is trying to pressure him to back off his efforts to restrict semiautomatic military-assault-type weapons, an administration source said.

The source said Bennett has received numerous telephone calls in recent days from acquaintances who appear to be delivering messages on behalf of the NRA that his political future could be at stake unless he backs off the issue.

"They are saying such things as, 'people who want a political future shouldn't cross the NRA,'" said an administration source.

"From some of the things they say to Bennett, it seems clear that they have been in touch with the NRA," the source said.

Bennett issued a brief statement through a spokesman: "There have been a lot of calls, a lot of warnings. It's time to cool off." The spokesman, Don Hamilton, refused to elaborate.

The two million-member NRA denied placing any pressure on Bennett or asking anyone else to do so.

Review

In fact, when Bennett announced a ban on the import of most semiautomatic assault-type weapons Tuesday, pending a review to "determine" if the weapons have a legitimate use, the organisation's official response was quite reserved.

Wayne Lapiere, the NRA's executive director, said the temporary ban "should put a stop to the media hysteria," and provide "an atmosphere for a reasoned and sensible debate."

Public outrage over the availability of semiautomatic assault weapons mushroomed after a gunman using a semiautomatic AK-47 assault rifle killed five children and wounded 29 others and a teacher in a Stockton, California, schoolyard Jan. 17 before committing suicide.

The administration source said Bennett believes while the NRA has taken a moderate public stance, it is delivering him a different message through third parties.

"Bennett doesn't want a fight, but if they keep back-channeling with threats about his political future, they are going to get one," the administration source said.

The NRA's membership includes President Bush, who selected Bennett as the first director of the new US office of national drug policy control.

Bennett took office Monday and promptly moved to restrict semiautomatic guns, which police say have become weapons of choice of career criminals, particularly drug dealers.

In addition to calls directly to Bennett by people who know him well, the drug czar's office has received dozens of irate telephone calls in recent days from persons claiming to be NRA members, another source said.

The source said many of these callers have also warned that unless Bennett backs off efforts to restrict semiautomatic weapons, his political future could be in jeopardy.

Sandinistas free 1,900 guardsmen

Ortega announces reforms

MANAGUA, March 18, (Reuters): Nicaragua's leftist Sandinistas, many of whom were tortured or imprisoned by former dictator Anastasio Somoza's national guard, have released nearly 1,900 jailed guardsmen to fulfil terms of a Central American peace pact.

But new government proposals for political reform, another key part of the plan, fell far short of opposition demands.

President Daniel Ortega, who spent seven years in Somoza's prisons, and Interior Minister Tomas Borge, who was jailed and tortured by the national guard, watched impassively on Friday as guardsmen were freed from Managua's Tipitapa prison.

"At the ceremony where those of us who were taken prisoners several times by Somoza's guard, who were tortured by Somoza's guard, whose brothers and relatives were murdered by Somoza's guard," Ortega told opposition politicians.

The guard fought a vicious struggle against Sandinista guerrillas before the 1979 revolution. It killed Ortega's brother Camilo during an anti-Somoza rebellion in 1978.

Ortega agreed at a Central American summit in El Salvador last month to free political prisoners and make political reforms in return for a promise by other regional leaders to work to disband US-backed Contra



Jose Angel Bonilla, a former guard, kisses his wife moments after being pardoned and released from prison. (Reuters wirephoto)

rebels fighting Managua.

Some 1,645 former guardsmen, jailed since 1979, were freed in an emotional ceremony at the prison. Standing in rows on a dusty parade ground, they came forward one by one to receive their release papers and be reunited with tearful relatives.

Reforms

Another 249 guardsmen held under house arrest or other restrictions, were also pardoned.

The guardsmen were jailed for up to 30 years on charges ranging from criminal association to rape and murder. But human rights groups say many were unfairly tried.

Ortega outlined his plans for electoral and media law reforms — a key commitment under the peace plan.

Without giving details, Ortega said he would propose reforms to prevent the ruling party from using state property in an election campaign, promote equal access to the media for all political parties and change the law on party funding.

Opposition parties complain that they are denied access to state-run television and barred from receiving foreign funds.

But opposition leaders complained that Ortega had not met their demands for constitutional reforms to ensure a fair ballot in elections set for next February.

Sleeping position vital Clue to cot deaths

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): Babies' sleeping positions and the type of households they live in could explain why some die of a mysterious disease, Cot Death Syndrome, researchers said today.

Cot death, or sudden infant death syndrome, is now the most common cause of death in Britain for infants aged between one and 12 months, killing about 1,500 a year. But its causes are not yet known.

Dutch researchers, writing in the British Medical Journal, said cot deaths were more likely when infants slept face-down and they should sleep on their sides or backs where possible.

"The incidence of cot death was almost five times higher among infants who usually slept prone than among those who did not," they said.

A team of Hong Kong researchers, who found there were very few cases of cot death in the colony, discovered that infants there, traditionally were put to sleep on their backs to avoid suffocation.

Workers losing faith in Soviet reforms

MOSCOW, March 18, (AP): A leading Soviet sociologist has warned that 1989 is a crucial year for solving food problems, saying workers have less faith today than they did two years ago in President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms.

"1989 will be a crucial year for perestroika (restructuring)," said Ms Tatyana Zaslavskaya. "It is necessary to begin implementing promises. Expectations were high."

Zaslavskaya is a leading theorist of reform efforts and heads the Soviet public opinion centre. Her comments at a news conference came a day after the Communist Party's Central Committee approved a programme to deal with the country's severe food shortages.

Zaslavskaya said enthusiasm for Gorbachev's reforms peaked in 1987, two years after Gorbachev took power. However, she said that since then "we are witnessing a deterioration. The most important factor is the supply in the shops."

Intellectuals still support the reform effort because it has allowed more freedom in public discussion, art and literature. But workers are more interested in their standard of living, and polling information most believe they are worse, rather than better off, she said.

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Strongest warning

Zhao rebuffs call for parties

BEIJING, March 18. (AP): Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang issued his strongest rebuff yet to increasingly vocal advocates of multiparty democracy and vowed in a speech published yesterday that his party will never be supplanted.

The speech was published as officials prepared for Monday's annual legislative session, which is expected to witness unprecedented open calls by some delegates for democracy and an amnesty for political prisoners.

But Zhao said China does not need opposition parties and upheaval will not be tolerated.

"At present no one is satisfied with our backward condition, but in my view we don't need a new prescription," he told a party seminar. "The leadership of the Communist Party is in the interests of the entire nation. China cannot adopt the Western multiparty system."

The text of Zhao's speech, said to have been delivered in January, filled the top half of national newspapers' front pages and nearly a full page inside. No explanation was given for the delay in its publication.

Warnings
It was the strongest in a series of recent warnings by Zhao and other top officials on the need for political stability as they struggle to resolve severe economic problems, including annual inflation now running at 36 per cent.

However, many intellectuals say China cannot resolve its economic problems and develop a modern, market-style economy unless it relaxes tight political controls.

Several delegates to the 2,796-member National People's Congress, China's legislature, have said they will issue a call at the annual session for an amnesty for prisoners of conscience.

More than 100 intellectuals, throwing off caution learned over four decades of communist rule, already have letters to the Congress calling for such an amnesty, especially for Wei Jingsheng.

Wei, whose case has been championed by Amnesty International, was sentenced in 1979 to 15 years in prison for "counter-revolutionary activities."

But a leading judge, Tang Zhanjun, quashed any hopes for such an amnesty yesterday. The official Xinhua news agency quoted Tang as saying Wei's sentence was just and denying China has political or ideological prisoners.

Zhao did not mention Wei or the petitions, but his speech indicated authorities have no intention of letting the National People's Congress become a platform for critics of the government or the 47-million-member party.

"Those who dislike our party... know there is no way from the outside to destroy or supplant us," he said. "The party has fighting power."

He said the party is the key to resolving every national problem, and economic development cannot succeed without its leadership.

Cypriot women walk home

NICOSIA, March 18. (Reuters): Hundreds of Greek-Cypriot women plan to dodge minefields and UN peacekeepers tomorrow in a bid to cross the Green Line dividing their island.

More than 100 women have come from the United States, Europe and Australia to join the march, the third such attempt in three years by a committee called Women Walk Home.

Turkish-Cypriot women on the other side of the barricaded buffer strip say they will confront the Greek Cypriots with a march

of their own.

Many of the Greek-Cypriot marchers will be refugees asserting their right to return to homes in the northern third of Cyprus which they fled when the Turkish Army invaded in 1974. The invasion followed a brief coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta when ruling Greece.

The Greek-Cypriot women tomorrow will be playing hide-and-seek with the eight-country UN force — starting in buses from central Nicosia and hoping

to launch themselves at an unguarded point along the buffer strip before the peacekeepers catch up.

Minefields have been sown in many parts of the strip but members of the protest have said they will choose a point free of mines.

Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş has warned the marchers they will be arrested if they manage to cross.

The Cypriot government, which controls two-thirds of the island, is sympathetic with the marchers' aims but is under pres-

sure from the United Nations to stop the demonstration.

UN spokesman Charles Gaulkin said that "with the resources available we will try to prevent anyone from entering the buffer zone."

"But we are spread out across 180 miles (250 km) with a force of 2,100 and the location of the march is secret."

"Our position is that the government should take all necessary actions to ensure that demonstrators do not enter the buffer zone," Gaulkin said.



Model expelled

Hsu Shao-tan, a 28-year-old model who has announced to run for Taiwan's parliament, is expelled from parliament after trying to burst in wearing a see-through wedding gown. (Reuters wirephoto)

On the light side

Eating just too much

NICOSIA, March 18. (Reuters): An Iranian father with three young sons who eat 75 loaves a day has been permitted to build a bakery in his home.

Karim K. Hainpour said his sons Kamal (four), Salman (six), and Farman (eight), also need six kilos (13 pounds) of cheese and 60 potatoes daily.

Kamal weighs 40 kilos (88 pounds), Farman 60 kilos (132 pounds), but six-year-old Salman may be a world record holder for his age, tipping the scales at 69 kilos (152 pounds).

A small hiccup

LOS ANGELES, March 18. (AP): Sentencing for Rob Camilletti, boyfriend of actress-singer Cher, was postponed because of a dispute over where he should perform community service for smashing a photographer's camera.

Judge Ronald Schoenberg indicated he will order Camilletti, 24, to pay \$1,050 in fines, make restitution, do 300 hours of community service and serve 24 months probation, said prosecutor's office spokesman Mike Qualls.

Schoenberg reset sentencing for April 4 after meeting with deputy city attorney Renee Laurentis and defence lawyer John Forbes.

Downed by mosquitoes

NEW DELHI, March 18. (AP): Swarms of mosquitoes invaded the cockpit of an Indian Airlines plane at Calcutta airport and delayed the flight for two hours, news reports say.

The pilot of the Boeing 737 made the discovery when he climbed into the cockpit shortly before departure Monday, according to United News of India and Press Trust of India.

All port authorities arranged to have the cockpit cleared, and the plane took off for the eastern city of Dibrugarh, 500 miles (805 kilometres) north-east of Calcutta.

No lead role for Moore

LONDON, March 18. (AP): Longtime James Bond star Roger Moore said it was not just fears about his baritone voice that led him to give up a leading role in the latest Andrew Lloyd Webber musical.

"Actually, I think the voice would have stood up," Moore said Tuesday in a BBC radio interview. "It's just the whole technical thing that would not have. It was a question of counting time and when to come in and go out and finding those notes out of the air."

Moore had been rehearsing six weeks for the part of suave and dashing George Dillingham in "Aspects of Love," which opens next month.

Free wigs for 20 years

PARIS, March 18. (Reuters): A young man who lost all his hair in a car accident has been awarded enough money by a French court to keep him in wigs for the next 20 years.

The French insurance industry's watchdog group said the insurer of the driver who knocked the youth down would foot the 40,000-franc (\$6,500) bill for the wigs.

The group said the 17-year-old, whose identity was not revealed, started losing his hair two weeks after the crash in which he suffered shock and head injuries.

He was also awarded 200,000 francs (\$32,000) damages by the Paris appeal court in addition to the payment for wigs.

Walk to North Pole off

LONDON, March 18. (Reuters): British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes abandoned his third bid to walk unaided to the North Pole yesterday after two days battling pack-ice and snow, his agent said.

But the 45-year-old adventurer said he was considering another attempt to become the first person to cross the ice-cap without dogs, motor transport or supply drops.

Fiennes and his companion Michael Stroud set off on Tuesday from their base in northern Canada, each pulling a special supply sled for the 425-mile (680 km) trek.

First Lady plays midwife

WASHINGTON, March 18. (Reuters): First Lady Barbara Bush played midwife last night for President Bush's pet dog, Millie, a three-year-old Springer spaniel, who gave birth to at least two puppies.

Hungary bids to host conference

Arafat discusses Mideast

BUDAPEST, March 18. (Reuters): Hungary has offered to host an international peace conference on the Middle East and play a mediating role in the conflict.

The offer came at a meeting between Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth and Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Arafat told Nemeth he agreed with a Soviet proposal that a Middle East peace conference should begin in six to nine months, Hungary's state news agency MTI reported.

"At the request of Arafat, the Hungarian government gave the promise that it would organise the international conference," it said.

The PLO and most members of the United Nations — but not Israel — favour convening an international Middle East peace conference under UN auspices.

Bridge

Western diplomats said Hungary's offer reflected its belief in the ability of small countries to act as a bridge. Hungary then boasts of having kept East-West dialogue alive at a time of super-power tension in the early 1980s.

One diplomat described Hungary's moves as the kind of "active diplomacy" pursued by Budapest for the past few years, though he doubted the Israelis would be very happy about it.

In common with most East bloc nations, Hungary severed relations with Israel over the 1967 war. But Budapest is expected to resume full ties in the next few weeks.

If it does, it will be the only East bloc country except Romania to have full diplomatic links with the Jewish state.

Nemeth told Arafat that Hungary supported the "just efforts" of the Palestinian people in Hungarian talks with Israel and Jewish organisations.

"Nemeth noted that Hungary would gladly accept a mediating role, and supports the settlement process of the Middle East situation," MTI said.

During Arafat's two-day visit, at the invitation of Communist Party leader Karoly Grosz, the PLO's permanent mission to Hungary was upgraded to an embassy.

Opposition

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has staunchly rejected the idea of a peace conference, believing it would force Israel into concessions.

But Arafat said new international understanding of the conflict meant there was now a rare chance for a solution.

Addressing 500 deputies at a century-year conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on Friday, Arafat appealed to the United States and to Jewish communities worldwide to help seize this chance.

"To miss such a historic opportunity would have a very serious impact on the whole situation in different regions of the world," he said, in a speech boycotted by Israeli delegates led by Dov Shilansky, speaker of Israel's Knesset.

Arafat flew to Prague on Friday evening for talks with Czechoslovak Communist Party leader Milos Jakes.

Arafat also said he welcomed the new US administration's approval of continued dialogue with his group. He said the decision by President George Bush to continue dialogue with the PLO is "a very important step which will help a peace process in the Middle East."



Soviet-Iran talks

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze (right) discussed Afghanistan, the Gulf war and other regional issues with Iran's visiting Deputy Foreign Minister, Muhammad Hossein Lavasani. Tass news agency said both men called for an end to bloodshed in Afghanistan.



Arafat (right) listens to questions during a press conference in Budapest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Palestinian-Israeli contacts

PLO knows them all

NICOSIA, March 18. (AP): Bassam Abu Sharif, chief spokesman for Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat, said Friday that the Palestinians who have been meeting with Israeli officials are all in contact with the PLO.

"These contacts are not a secret," Abu Sharif said in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo monitored in Nicosia. "All the Palestinian figures have insisted in their meetings with the Israelis that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, which Israel will have to talk to if it wants peace."

In New York on Thursday, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Israel would "spare no effort to identify interlocutors amongst the Palestinian people." He acknowledged that some would be PLO sympathisers.

US Secretary of State James Baker said Tuesday that Israel may have no alternative other than to reverse its ban on the PLO and negotiate with what Israel brands a "terror organisation."

Baker critics said the remark could undermine Israeli attempts to establish a dialogue with Palestinians outside the PLO.

Abu Sharif said such leading Palestinians as Faysel Abu Rahmeh, Elias Freij, Hanna Seniora and Faisal Hussein, are in contact with the PLO while not members of the organisation.

Abu Sharif was interviewed in Paris, where the Arabic-language radio station is headquartered.

He said the US-PLO talks in Tunis next week will focus on the international conference for Middle East peace, but other issues will be discussed including Israeli measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

New Sudan cabinet split on portfolios

KHARTOUM, March 18. (KUNA): The new government

is unlikely to be announced today as previously expected and Prime Minister Sadeq El Mahdi will not hold a press conference as announced by his Umma Party aides on Thursday.

According to sources close to current negotiations on formation of a new government, the two main parties — Umma and Democratic Unionist — have not reached agreement on which portfolios will each of them hold.

The sources say that the defence, interior, foreign and information portfolios are disputed by the Umma and DUP.

Another obstacle facing Sadeq El Mahdi is representation of the so-called modern forces, or trade organisations which have agreed to hold two portfolios. One of these posts was reserved for the workers' federation, which enjoys the largest membership.

The federation has declared that it will keep out but will still support the new government and its programme.

The question is now which of the other five unions — professionals, technicians, farmers, teachers and businessmen — will take the two portfolios.

The third hurdle holding up the formation is representation of the parties of South Sudan. Those parties are split into three groups the largest of which is the Union of Sudan African Parties, USAP, led by People's Progressive Party chairman Eliab James Sur.

This group, which has 16 seats in Parliament, demands a number of portfolios proportionate to their parliamentary weight plus the presidency of the council for the South.

Meanwhile, rebels in Southern Sudan said on Friday they had captured the Nile River garrison town of Mongalla, closing in on the southern regional capital Juba.

Mongalla was the seventh government-held town to fall to the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the past three weeks and its capture heightened tension in Juba.

Beheaded for crime

DAMMAM, March 18. (Reuters): Two men convicted of kidnapping, raping and murdering a girl were beheaded in Saudi Arabia yesterday, the Interior Ministry said. A statement said Nayef Rashid Idwan and Abdullah Khashim Abdullah hid the girl's body in an unused well after killing her. They were executed in Buraidah, 300 km north of Riyadh, after Friday prayers.

Tian Jiyun in UAE

ABU DHABI, March 18. (KUNA): Visiting Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun began a round of official talks here today with his UAE counterpart Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Nahayan on Middle East politics and economic ties between Beijing and Abu Dhabi. Discussions centred on ways of enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries in different fields, and the recent developments in the Middle East.

Mobile clinic

KUALA LUMPUR, March 18. (KUNA): A Malaysian dentist, Dr Dzulkhaimi Haji Husain, plans to set up a mobile dental clinic manned by Malaysian volunteers in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. Dr Dzulkhaimi, 45, is now organising a few projects to raise money to buy basic dental equipment worth about \$10,000.

Bridge collapses

ALGIERS, March 18. (AP): A mental footbridge collapsed yesterday under the weight of several hundred people in the eastern suburb of El Harrach, causing four deaths and 157 injuries, state-run television reported. The television news-cast blamed the disaster on the poor condition of the bridge, which it said was about 70 years old.

Iran-Malaysia ties

NICOSIA, March 18. (AP): Malaysia's Foreign Affairs Minister, Datuk Haji Abu Hassan Omar, arrived in Tehran today for three days of talks with Iranian leaders on boosting bilateral links, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. IRNA quoted Omar as saying his visit will improve links between the two Muslim countries.

Holiday over Taba

CAIRO, March 18. (KUNA): Next Tuesday will be an official holiday in Egypt marking the return of Taba to the Egyptian sovereignty after 22 years of Israeli occupation. Radio Cairo reported today. It quoted Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Atef Sidki as saying that the holiday will be observed only this year and April 25 will remain the official holiday for the liberation of Egyptian Sinai from Israel in 1982.

Tindemans in Syria for hostage talks

BEIRUT, March 18. (Agencies): Foreign Minister of Belgium, Leo Tindemans, is in Damascus seeking Syrian help in the release of six Belgians believed held by radical Palestinians in Lebanon.

Official Damascus Radio said Tindemans arrived in the Syrian capital yesterday for a three-day visit, met his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharara and discussed ways to boost bilateral relations.

"I'll discuss with Syrian officials their possible contribution to obtain the release of Syrian hostages who are held in Lebanon," Tindemans said in a statement, published by Beirut's An Nahar newspaper.

Tindemans said his country had held contacts with several other Middle East countries on the plight of the abducted Belgians.

The visit was Tindemans' first to Syria since 1985. He was due to meet Syrian President Hafiz Assad, who is expected to return from Libya before the Belgian official leaves Damascus.

The Belgian captives are Emmanuel Houdekens, his wife, Godelieve Kets, their two children — Laurent and Valerie — and Houdekens' brother, Fernand.

An extremist Palestinian group, the Fatah Revolutionary Council, said on Nov 8, 1988, that it abducted the Belgian family and five French nationals from a leisure boat, the Silko, off the coast of the Israeli occupied Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile Britain's Ambassador in Lebanon Allan Ramsay said today the prospect of freedom for Western hostages in Beirut may not have been hurt by the controversy over Salman Rushdie's book The Satanic Verses.

New Soviet aircraft carrier on the Black Sea

GOLCUK, Turkey, March 18. (Reuters): A new Soviet aircraft carrier is likely to seek passage from the Black Sea through Turkish-controlled straits to the Mediterranean in the next year, Turkey's fleet commander's aid.

Western intelligence sources believe the carrier, built at the Black Sea's Nikolayev Yard and named either Kremlin or Leonid I.

Brezhnev, is a 65,000-tonne nuclear-powered vessel.

"It is ready for operation and we expect it within the next year," Admiral Irfan Tinaz, the Turkish fleet commander, told Reuters at Golcuk Naval Base, 90 km (55 miles) east of Istanbul. He said the carrier was now possibly undergoing sea trials.

Turkey, a member of the North Atlantic

Treaty Organisation (NATO), must receive notice of foreign warships seeking entry to the straits — the Bosphorus, the Marmara Sea and the Dardanelles — under the 1936 Montreux Convention.

The straits, the only passage out of the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, are a major conduit for Soviet and Bulgarian trade and of Soviet military aid to Third World states.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, March 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir today received Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

Sheikh Sabah returned home last night from Riyadh after he headed Kuwait's delegation to the meetings of the 18th conference for Islamic Conference Organisation's foreign ministers.

Nasser returns

KUWAIT, March 18, (KUNA): Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad returned to Kuwait yesterday evening after he represented Kuwait at the 17 Arab Labour Ministers' Conference held in Rabat recently.

Gulf women meet

BAHRAIN, March 18, (Reuters): More than 200 women from nine Arab states met in Bahrain on Saturday to discuss issues facing their society.

The four-day conference, called "Family, Reality and Ambition — Towards a Better Future," is the fifth meeting of women from Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and North and South Lebanon.

Expat security

THE social security scheme planned for expatriates working in Kuwait has been temporarily held in abeyance, according to Abdullah Al Sumaiti, the director of the Legal Department at Kuwait's Public Institution for Social Security (PISS).

Speaking at a seminar organised recently by Kuwait's Government Employees Federation titled "The Law of the Public Institution for Social Security," he said that the institution was studying the possibility of enacting a new law which aims at minimising cases of early retirement among Kuwaitis working in the government sector.

Resident permits

THE immigration department in the four governorates completed the processing of 9,900 new residence permits and renewed over 20,700 during the month of February, according to a release issued by the Ministry of the Interior.

The release added that these departments also processed about 5,800 residence permits and renewed over 82,500 applications during the same month, including about 13,600 visit visas.

The department also issued 17,700 work permits, including 5,900 permits for maids and 231 work permits for workers in the private sector.

Education budget

TOTAL expenditure of the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year 1987/1988 amounted to KD289 million as compared to KD280 million for 86/87, according to Abdul Aziz Al Jarallah, Assistant Undersecretary of Education for Financial and Administrative Affairs.

The government allocated a budget of KD308 million for the ministry this year. Wages of staff will amount to KD255 million (83 per cent of the budget), the official said.

Dragged out

A BOY was dragged from under falling debris by one of his relatives when a dilapidated house gave way during the dust storm that swept the country on March 15.

The boy was cycling to the house when suddenly the wall collapsed. He was rushed to the hospital for medical treatment. A number of residents had in the past complained that several old houses in the area were shaky and unsafe. No action was taken, they added.

Out at sea

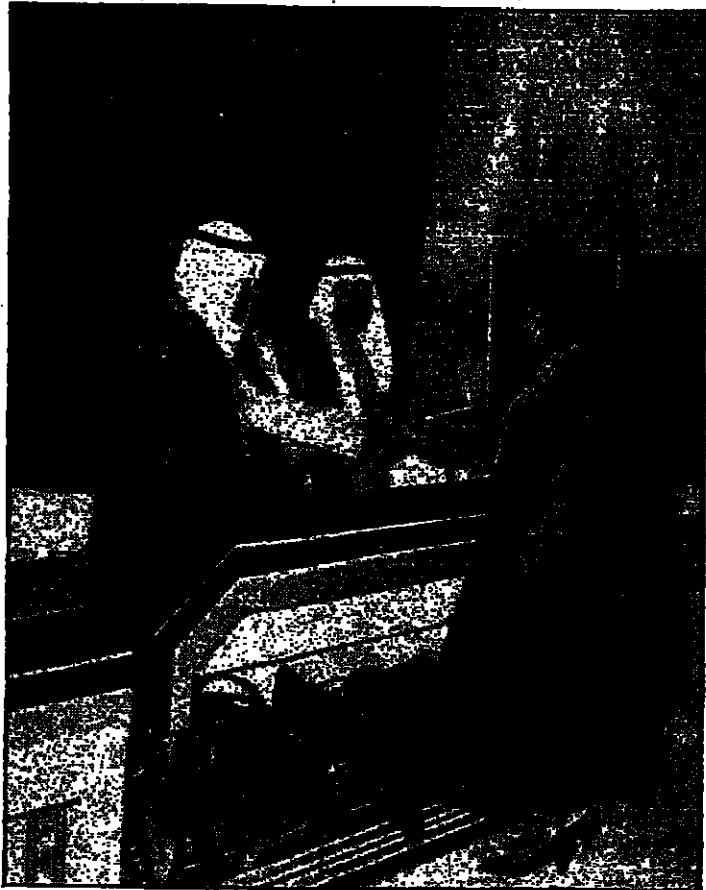
A 45-year-old Kuwaiti fisherman spent three days out at sea without food or water after failing to steer his speedboat.

The fisherman, identified as Ali Al Azmi, set off last Friday on a solo voyage, but got caught in strong winds alongside the Nuwaiseeb shore after running out of petrol, and was washed towards Saudi shores where he was picked up by Saudi coast guards 20 miles away from Khafji.

He is reported to be in good condition and is presently in a hospital at Khafji, sources said.

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Applied education graduates

HH the Amir yesterday patronised the graduation ceremony for the outstanding students at the Public Authority of Applied Education and Training for the 1987-88 academic year at Sabah Al Salem Hall in Khaldiya.

The function was attended by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, sheikhs, ministers, senior state officials and guardians of graduates.

Third party car insurance rates will not be raised

THE government has no intention of raising fees for "third party" car insurance, even though local insurance companies are suffering huge losses in this area, according to Abdullah Al Jarallah, Chairman of Warba Insurance Company.

In an interview with a local daily, Jarallah said that insurance companies in Kuwait are losing out because of multiple compensations on death and other claims, and he called on the government to rectify the problem. All that insurance companies want is to be assured sufficient revenue to cover their losses from third party claims, he said.

Law

Jarallah went on to say that he expects the new insurance law will be issued this year and that it will help give local companies a "good push forward." The recent law regulating the work of foreign insurance agencies provided helpful support for local companies, he added.

Regarding the issue of third party insurance, meanwhile, Jarallah pointed out that blood money value (death compensation in traffic accidents) increased from KD2,500 to KD6,000 and then to KD10,000, while the annual insurance fees on cars has remained at around KD14. He noted that Kuwait has the world's highest traffic accident rate, and a correspondingly high death rate from accidents, which in turn cost insurance companies huge amounts.

Nutrition seminar opened at Islamic Medical Centre

By Lima Al Khalafawi Arab Times staff

THE Seventh Scientific Seminar on Nutrition and its relationship to cancer, allergy and the human body's immune system opened at the Islamic Medical Centre yesterday.

In an open speech, Health Ministry Undersecretary, Ibrahim Al Modhaf said that the ministry's nutrition department is keen on improving the level of its services.

Also speaking at the seminar, Fowzia Al Awadi, director of the nutrition department at the Ministry of Public Health, said that diseases such as cancer, allergy, and AIDS are traced to a number

of reasons such as the natural environment and the body's immune system.

Allergies

Dr A.R. Ali, consultant physician of Adam House Medical Centre, Nottingham, UK, said that in recent years considerable publicity has been given to and wild claims made about the increasing problems caused by food allergies. He added that much remains to be learned about this complex subject. A whole new vocabulary of terms has arisen around the subject such as: elemental diet, exclusion diet, the oligo-antigenic diet, etc.

He added that the seminar attempts to distinguish between

food allergy, food intolerance and the more psychologically based food aversion. The seminar will consider the problem of diagnosis, skills involved in management and the role of the dietitian. He said that the public panic over salmonella in eggs and the so-called "hysteria over listeria" in Britain, reflects the polarity of the debate.

Additives

Continuing, he said that over the years we have become experts at using "safe" microbes and natural ingredients as salt, fat and sugar to inhibit the growth of microbes which would damage food and be harmful to health. The seminar will continue until March 23.

International conference

Palestinian women saluted

ILLINOIS, March 18, (KUNA): The General Arab Women Federation was represented at an International Conference on Women and Peace, held at the University of Illinois March 12-15, by Fatima Al Shakar of Bahrain.

Shakar represents the Baghdad-based federation and the Bahrain Children and Mother Welfare Society to the United Nations in New York.

The conference, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Jane Adams, from Illinois, who won the Nobel Peace prize in 1931, was to reaffirm the value of women joining together through a trusting network to effect positive change for all mankind.

Salute

In a statement prepared by the representative, Shakar said Palestinian women in the occupied territories are supporting and participating in the popular uprising to put an end to a 21-year old Israeli occupation, stirring world public opinion.

"I take this opportunity to salute Palestinian women fighting for peace and justice in the occupied territories and call upon this meeting to give them its unqualified support," Shakar said in the statement.

During the conference, the participants recalling United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions calling for South Africa's cultural boycott, voted for a resolution preventing a white South African woman from taking the floor.

The conference's recommendations include a demand that the United States pay its total dues to the UN, adopt the comprehensive test ban treaty and ratify the convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

The conference also requested that the US State Department make available to the public free copies of the text unanimously approved at the 1985 Nairobi conference "Forward looking strategies for the advancement of women by the year 2000."

American Indians in Bahrain

Cross-cultural encounters in the desert

BAHRAIN, March 18, (AP): American Indian war whoops pierced the desert stillness and drums beat in insistent rhythm. For anyone familiar with cowboy movies it was a familiar scene — except for the Sheikh's palace in the background.

The occasion was a cross-cultural encounter during a visit by the American Indian Dance Theatre, a 15-member troupe touring the Middle East and Europe under the auspices of the US Information Service.

Enthusiasm

The Americans, representing eight Indian tribes from Apache to Zuni, said they were delighted by the Bahrainis' enthusiasm at their performances, featuring traditional dances in authentic dress.

"We show them the vibrant colours, our beadwork, the songs, dances. In a sense, they're just like us. They have their tribal songs and dances that are new to us, just as ours are to them," said Marty Pennecose, 31, a southern Ute.

The desert gathering, arranged by the US embassy, was a private affair held in the ruins of a sheikh's palace, within sight and smell of Bahrain's oil and gas fields.

Islamic capitals asked to co-operate

Fifth OICC general conference opens

AMMAN, March 18, (KUNA): Kuwait's delegation to the Fifth General Conference of Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC) today presented a detailed report on modern procedures followed in Kuwait in the naming and numbering of streets.

The report, which the delegation presented on the opening day of the conference, contained a case study on modern numbering and naming practices in two different areas of Kuwait, along with explanations of the positive and negative aspects of the procedure.

The Kuwaiti delegation is headed by Engineer Abdul Rahman Al Duaij and the team of Engineers Ahmad Al Sabeeh and Rashid Al Khashan.

Addressing the conference, Jordan's Viceroy Prince Hassan Bin Talal praised the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist occupation in the occupied Arab lands and expressed full support to the uprising.

Challenge

The prince said: "We are now gathered just a few kilometres from the oldest capital on earth, occupied Jerusalem, which is currently revolting against

unjustice and suppression." "What is going on in holy Jerusalem and the occupied Arab lands symbolises the cultural challenge that we are all passing through at this critical era of our history," he added.

He called upon all Islamic capitals to co-operate and co-ordinate in order to reduce the dangers of pollution that threatens water resources and environment.

OICC Secretary-General Engineer Abdul Qader Hamzah delivered a speech in which he reviewed the organisations' various activities and its role in

providing technical and consultative support to the Islamic countries.

Among the issues to be discussed during the three-day conference is establishing a centre in the Egyptian capital to train cadres and provide the expertise that Islamic cities need.

The conference will also decide on the place and date of their next conference, as well as electing a new secretary-general and administrative council for the coming four years.

On the sidelines of the gathering, a seminar on modern principles for numbering and naming

streets and areas in Islamic cities will be held.

Fifty-two delegations representing Islamic cities and capitals are participating in the conference, including the Kuwaiti delegation which arrived here last night.

OICC, which was established in 1980 grouping municipalities of cities and capitals of member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, is an independent Islamic and international organisation.

The Makkah-based organisation has no political activities or alliances.

UK plans to sell military hardware

By Diane Diaz Arab Times staff

THE United Kingdom is making a bid to sell tanks, helicopters and patrol boats to Kuwait, but a formal deal has not been reached, according to a senior British official.

Lord Trefgarne, British Minister for Defence Procurement, said the UK is "having to compete if we're going to win any of those orders," but, he added, Britain "expects success."

The British minister has spent the last two days meeting with Kuwaiti defence officials. He said equipment matters were at the top of his agenda here, but quickly pointed out that he isn't going away "with a deal in my pocket."

A number of other countries are reportedly vying to make the sale.

Well-placed

"The Kuwaiti armed forces do have further needs, and (Britain) is happy to respond," Trefgarne said. "They're looking for tanks — we're particularly well-placed to help in that area — helicopters and patrol boats."

Trefgarne went on to say, "I am not a salesman... My job is to assure our Kuwaiti friends of the British government's support."



Lord Trefgarne

In a 30-minute interview with the Arab Times at the residence of British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe, Lord Trefgarne touched on a number of issues, including British naval presence in the Gulf and the Rushdie affair.

Lord Trefgarne said that Britain has every intention of maintaining its forces in the Gulf.

"They will remain as long as there is a job for them to do," he said, adding that "the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war is just that, only a ceasefire."

He said the truth appears to be "holding satisfactorily," but that

Britain will not withdraw its naval forces until "it is quite clear" that the war is over.

He said Britain has altered the role of its naval vessels in the Gulf to patrol a wider area.

The British fleet is no longer accompanying commercial tankers as it once did, he said. Instead, the fleet is patrolling Gulf waters as far north as Kuwait.

Prior to the change in policy, which took effect at the beginning of the year, British vessels would not travel north of Bahrain, he said.

Commenting on reports that the Soviet Union wants to expand its role in the Gulf, Lord Trefgarne said, "We are not keen on the Soviets involving themselves in areas where they have no business being."

"If all they're about is maintaining lawful passage of merchant vessels, that is not something to which we take exception. If they envisage a wider role, I'd question whether that was appropriate," he said.

Freedom

"We can't forget their (the Soviet's) less agreeable antics of years passed," he continued.

On the Rushdie affair, Lord Trefgarne apologised for the offence that the book has caused to Muslims, but he said the UK has no power to ban the book.

In Britain a person has "absolute freedom of speech," he said, adding that a person is only confined by what is in British law.

"Threats to murder are unlawful," he continued. "It's not tolerable that a national government should call for that to happen."

He went on to say that Britain has not officially broken its diplomatic relations with Tehran, though Iran has broken ties with the UK.

He said that if the death threat is withdrawn, relations with Iran "could normalise."

No charge for health services

THE state does not at present foresee levying charges on health services offered by the ministry to the public, according to Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak, the minister of Public Health.

He added that if such a move is contemplated, it will be reflected in non-essential medical services such as plastic surgeries and some services offered by dental clinics.

A medical delegation from the ministry will visit Greece and Cyprus to discuss the possibility of Kuwait obtaining some human organs such as kidneys and livers for transplant purposes. Kuwait has both the expertise and the facilities to perform transplants, for example at the Hamed Al Essa Centre for organ transplants.

Proposals

The minister disclosed that a small hospital is to be built on Failaka Island which will provide some specialised services. A proposal to provide flying medical units to be used in emergency cases at Failaka is under study.

Commenting on suggestions to build a special hospital for Kuwaitis, the minister said that Kuwait does not distinguish between Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis in medical services. He said: "Medical treatment is an unequivocal right of every human being living in Kuwait." The ministry is working on reducing the waiting period for appointments given to patients.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Retailers disappointed with annual sale

BAHRAIN'S annual sale is proving to be disappointing compared to previous years according to reports from a number of major, medium and small range shops and retail outlets throughout the island.

The sale, which began March 1, has so far generated "poor response" from consumers in general in spite of some shop owners claiming moderate success.

The market in general has blamed the exhibition of "Bahrain Fair", which was held last month prior to the commencement of the traditional two-week sale period, for the mediocre response. Most shopkeepers have been unanimous in their agreement that the fair was staged at the wrong time, therefore exhausting the buying capacity of consumers during sale period.

Reluctant

In spite of attractive discounts being offered ranging from the minimum of 20 per cent up to as much as 70 per cent, buyers have been reluctant to make any hefty purchases. Most buyers are said to have even shied away from the electronics section, usually the most sought after market during sale.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's Chamber of Commerce and Industry on last minute request from several merchants, decided to extend the sale period this week for an extra nine days until March 24.

Gucci has created Nobile

GUCCI NOBILE, a new perfume line, for men, is available in Kuwait. This line is the latest creation of this famous house, the utmost in Gucci. With a Latin inspiration right down to its name, it is very distinguished, masculine and refined.

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Rifai and Jashanmal are the agents for Parfums Gucci in Kuwait.



Mr Tony Jashanmal and Mr Claude Ratzeil, Managing Director, of Parfums Gucci who was in Kuwait on the occasion of launching NOBILE.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WOE unto them that are tired of everything, for everything will certainly be tired of them - G.K. Chesterton, English writer (1874-1936).

Muslim split avoided Saudi triumph

By Aly Mahmoud

RIYADH, (AP): Delegates to the Islamic ministers' conference are crediting Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal with persuading Iran to accept a compromise over The Satanic Verses, avoiding a split over the issue among Islamic nations.

Iranian delegates arrived at the Riyadh meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference demanding that the 46-member body support Ayatollah Khomeini's religious edict that the novel's British author, Salman Rushdie, be killed for defaming Islam.

The Iranians also wanted Islamic countries to break ties with Britain and other West European states for supporting Rushdie. Tehran broke off relations with Britain March 7.

The Saudis, mindful of the harsh image of Khomeini's edict in the non-Muslim world, took the view that condemning Rushdie's book was sufficient.

Prince Saud, whose royal family is the guardian of Islam's holiest shrines in Makkah and Medina, conferred privately with delegates, especially Mohamed Tashkiri, the middle-ranking cleric from the Islamic Guidance Ministry who headed the seven-member Iranian delegation.

He cautioned that a split between the Muslim states would tarnish Islam. Many member states agreed that Iran's extremist stand was already damaging enough.

One conference source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the soft-spoken Prince Saud urged Tashkiri "to place the supreme interests of our religion above private and selfish interests."

The Saudi prince also urged Tehran to help break the deadlock in stalled peace talks with Iraq to end the eight-year-old Gulf war, the source reported.

Fighting halted Aug 20 when a ceasefire took effect. But the negotiations have bogged down with both sides accusing the other of sabotage.

It was not clear why the Iranians responded favourably to the prince's appeal. However, they knew that most Arab, African and Asian Muslim states were not prepared to back Khomeini's death call and that events in Afghanistan to some extent eclipsed the Rushdie affair.

The Saudis broke off relations with Iran last April, citing subversion and terrorism during the Gulf war against Arab neighbours. Riyadh backed Iraq in the war against Iran.

Credited

Although both Riyadh and Tehran have sent signals they were prepared to resume relations, Khomeini's actions and reversion to radical fundamentalism alarmed the Saudis.

The conference branded Rushdie, who was born into an Indian Muslim family, an apostate, and called on member states to ban his book and take joint action to prevent Islam from being abused. It also criticised unnamed Western publishers and nations for promoting insults to Islam under the slogan of freedom of expression.

But no mention was made of Khomeini's death sentence and calls for Islamic states to break diplomatic links with West.

"The OIC is not a judicial authority capable of prescribing the requisites for executing an apostate," Prince Saud told a news conference Thursday.

"The OIC is a political body primarily concerned with seeking means of broadening the scope of solidarity among Muslim states."

Prince Saud also was credited with persuading the conference to give Afghanistan's vacant seat in the OIC to the Pakistan-based interim government formed by Pakistani-based Sunni mujahideen groups.

Tehran has demanded that smaller Shiite groups based in Iran should be given seven portfolios in an interim government proposed for Afghanistan if rebels topple the communist leadership in Kabul.

No details were available on how the Saudis smoothed over Iran's objections to seating representatives of the rebel-proposed government. But OIC officials noted with relief that Tashkiri was among the first delegates to vote in favour.

Despite the differences between Tehran and Riyadh, Tashkiri paid tribute to Prince Saud's "diplomatic astuteness and decorum."

The Saudis have been active in mediation of Arab and Islamic politics.

Saudi and Jordanian efforts brought together archfoes Hafez Al Assad of Syria and Saddam Hussein of Iraq at a secret November 1987 meeting in Jordan.

Press review

Chilean grapes

WASHINGTON, (UPI): The Washington Post commented on the US Food and Drug Administration ban on Chilean fruit, saying in part:

"There is something highly improbable, almost antic, about the notion of inspectors painstakingly but randomly sorting through tens and hundreds of thousands of grapes looking for tiny puncture marks or other slight evidence of tampering. Incredibly, however it was just such a procedure that actually found the needle in the haystack, two grapes dosed with faint traces of cyanide, leading to the Food and Drug Administration's decision on Monday to take Chilean fruit off the market. It was an extension of the same procedure that, finding nothing more, led to the FDA's decision on Friday to let new Chilean grape imports back into the stores. The FDA intends to release various berries after further sampling but to hold up release of other fruits."

The FDA's first decision to hold up Chilean fruit was protested as an outrageous overreaction by many Chileans, who knew they would pay a huge economic price for it. Cooler heads in Santiago, however, realized the necessity of enlisting official American co-operation urgently in order to work through the scare. American officials responded with a show of diligence up to the requirements of foreign policy and — necessarily the priority consideration — consumer safety. This is how Americans and Chileans were able to speed up and increase inspection to the point that the FDA could reopen the grape trade, applying a standard of "maximum feasible safety" to new imports.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1563 - Peace of Amboise ends first war of religion in France, with Huguenots being granted limited toleration to exercise their religion.
- 1711 - War is declared between Russia and Turkey.
- 1775 - Portuguese fleet is repulsed in attack on Monte Video (Montevideo), Uruguay.
- 1799 - Napoleon Bonaparte begins siege of Acre (Israel) which is defended by Turks.
- 1808 - Spain's King Charles IV abdicates.
- 1812 - Spanish Cortes passes liberal constitution under a hereditary monarch.
- 1861 - Maori war in New Zealand ends.
- 1933 - Italy's dictator Benito Mussolini proposes pact with Britain, France and Germany.
- 1962 - Relative calm returns to Algeria after ceasefire, ending seven years of warfare between French and Algerian nationalists.
- 1963 - Algeria demands that France negotiate on ending nuclear testing in Algerian Sahara.
- 1971 - At least 160 people perish in landslides north of Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- 1977 - The Congo's President Marien Ngouabi is assassinated at his official residence in Brazzaville.
- 1978 - Israeli Army takes control of almost all of Lebanon south of Litani River.
- 1988 - Iraq claims its forces have overrun headquarters of Iranian-backed Kurdish guerrilla leader Jalal Talabani amid heavy mountain fighting.



Mubarak in the foreground

Discontent at home

Mubarak respected abroad

By John Fullerton

CAIRO, (Reuters): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak basks in a glow of international respect but critics say he faces a groundswell of discontent at home.

His supporters say he has propelled Egypt to the forefront of Middle East peace efforts after a decade of isolation in the Arab world because of its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

He has cemented ties with Washington, encouraged relations with Moscow and on Friday ended a West European tour aimed at gaining support for his cautious approach to economic reforms.

He visits today the beach resort of Taba, the final sliver of the Sinai peninsula to be regained from Israel.

The Egyptian flag was raised there on Wednesday after seven years of arbitration and negotiation — a vindication of the quiet President's patient style.

"Taba is a success for Mubarak," said an Arab diplomat. "And he badly needs success."

The return of the 700-metre (yard) beach on the Gulf of Aqaba, captured with the rest of Sinai in the 1967 Middle East war, is of great symbolic importance for what one Egyptian official privately described as the unconsumed betrothal of Egypt and Israel.

The peace accords signed by the leaders of Egypt, Israel and the United States stipulated the return of Sinai to Egypt and removed the prospect of another war against Israel.

Yet the atmosphere of suspicion failed to evaporate and a state of cold peace has characterised relations between the two states.

Mubarak's supporters view Taba's return as a vindication of the peace treaty itself. Although Egypt broke Arab ranks to make peace with the

traditional foe, they say, all but three Arab states have now restored relations with Cairo.

Admirers argue that the man who was thrust into the top job when President Anwar Sadat was shot dead a few feet from him at a military parade on Oct 6, 1981, has given precious stability to Egypt.

For them, the luckless former Air Force chief has become his own man by deliberately avoiding the heady personality cults of his larger-than-life predecessors, Sadat and Gamel Abdel Nasser. But critics warn of discontent among Egyptians, particularly over price rises and what they say is a lack of direction at the top in tackling the problems of debt, population growth and food production.

They say Mubarak is an indecisive manager whose emphasis on caution has deferred major surgery needed to restructure the economy and cut a swollen bureaucracy.

Mubarak, a hero of the 1973 war with Israel, was appointed vice-president in 1975. He was widely regarded as lacking the charisma of a president but in office his stolid, blunt approach soon made its mark.

"I will not make promises I cannot keep and I will not hide any facts from the people," he said soon after taking over. It was typical of his style.

Tahseen Bashir, a former Nasser and Sadat spokesman, knew Mubarak long before he became president.

"He was never ambitious and never dreamt of becoming president," he said. "He's very much a family man who loves to play squash and spend his evenings at home."

Many Egyptians say they respect Mubarak because of his clean image, untainted by corruption or Pharaonic ambition. But some question whether he has the flair to cope with Egypt's intractable economic difficulties.

Egypt-Israel peace

Land is the issue

By Ann Peters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (UPI): On a desert morning eight years ago, 17 young Israelis chained themselves atop a 76-foot monument in the Sinai community of Yamit, angry over their country's decision to sacrifice settlements in exchange for peace.

"We were looking toward the future and we felt this would be a precedent that to achieve peace you would have to give up land. No Arab leader would accept less than what (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat received," recalled Tzahi Hanegbi, one of the protesters and now a member of Israel's parliament.

On the 10th anniversary of the historic peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, land is still the issue.

Less than two weeks before the March 26 anniversary, the two countries closed another chapter in their peace with Israel handing back Taba, a tiny sliver of beach on the northeastern edge of the Sinai captured during the 1967 Six Day War.

More crucial to the peace is the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where a popular Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation has raged for 15 months. According to the peace arrangements, the final status of the territories should have been decided by now.

Butros Ghali, Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, is a man well-acquainted with Egyptian-Israeli relations who considers the treaty only partially fulfilled because Israel remains in the territories. He travelled with Sadat on his historic peace pilgrimage to occupied Jerusalem in 1977 and participated in Cairo's peace talks with Israel.

Egypt's diplomatic objective on the 10th anniversary, Ghali said, was resolving the Palestinian issue and achieving the second step of the peace treaty.

"Settling the Taba dispute opens the way before joint (Egyptian-Israeli) action to settle the Palestinian issue," he said. "Through settling the Palestinian issue and acknowledging the right of self-determination for the Palestinians, just and lasting peace can be achieved in the Mideast area."

Ezer Weizman, one of the architects of the Israeli-Egyptian peace, echoes his Egyptian friend. An outspoken maverick, the former Israeli defence minister and fighter pilot contends the decisions on the Palestinian situation were the most important aspect of the 1978 Camp David talks that led to the peace treaty.

But Weizman, who believes Israel will have to sit down and talk with the PLO, laments that 10 years have gone by and there is "no autonomy, no talks about a comprehensive peace, no talks about anything."

"I was hoping for a much better situation vis-a-vis the Palestinian problem," Weizman recalled, days before he was to travel to Cairo for a symposium on the treaty. "As a result, I was hoping the relations with Egypt would also be more attractive than what they are now."

The treaty came after four wars in 30 years that cost both countries thousands of lives. It stuck despite Sadat's assassination, Israel's invasion of Lebanon, the recall of the Egyptian ambassador after the Sabra and Shatilla massacres, the murders of two Israeli diplomats and the Palestinian uprising.

But gone is the euphoria of 10 years ago captured in the smiles and three-way handshake of Sadat, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Jimmy Carter at the White House treaty signing ceremony.

Egyptians, especially much of the media, berate Israel's hardened opposition to negotiations with the PLO. They believe the government's policy in the occupied territories and involvement in Lebanon are the main obstacles to better relations with their country, the only Arab nation to have made peace with Israel.

Israelis wonder why relations have not gone beyond their current state, and why few Egyptians visit their country compared to the thousands of Israelis who travel to Egypt. And they wonder whether they will forever be paying the price for peace with what they consider their land.

"People are disappointed," said Eliyahu Ben Elissar, Israel's first ambassador to Cairo. "We have paid a very high price for this peace. We gave them everything they wanted in exchange for what? In exchange for peace. Period."

"Peace means the dynamics of co-existence between the people," said Hanegbi, who believes Israeli-Egyptian relations have failed to reach that point yet.

Israel's reaction to the withdrawal from Taba March 15 was mild compared to that over the Yamit evacuation Hanegbi fought against. This time Israel only gave back a slice of desert beach with a resort hotel and village rather than Jewish settlements.

"Israel really did give up a lot, but I don't think relations now are what people expected. We expected better," said Paula Aranoff, an Israeli who visited Taba a day before its return to Egypt. "Israel gave up everything concrete. I don't see what Egypt gave up."

But from Egypt's point of view relations won't improve until the issue of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are resolved.

"When Egypt signed the peace treaty with Israel, we did not aim at a separate or partial peace," said Mohamed Bassiouny, Egypt's Ambassador to Israel. "We intended it to be a step to achieve the main issue, a comprehensive peace. As you know, the separate peace or partial peace is a fragile one."

Asked how relations between the two neighbours can warm up, Weizman responds quickly: "Solving the Palestinian problem. That's the only thing."

Tigray rebels on a high after capture of capital

By David W. Jones

KHARTOUM, (UPI): Tigray rebels are on an emotional high after the capture of the capital of their remote Ethiopian province, but observers suspect they might have more trouble in running the harsh mountainous region than they did in capturing it.

Some 15,000 to 20,000 well-equipped Ethiopian troops walked out of the Tigray capital of Mekele at the end of February following crushing losses elsewhere to the Tigray People's Liberation Front, according to accounts by TPLF leaders in Khartoum and Western diplomats based in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

The withdrawal leaves the TPLF in virtually unchallenged control of Ethiopia's northern Tigray province for the first time since they started fighting 14 years ago.

"This was a big shock to the regime," of President Mengistu Haile Miriam, gloated Kidane Yemane, a TPLF central committee member who runs the organisation's support operations based in Khartoum.

"The morale of our fighters is now very high, their fighting abilities are confirmed," he said in an interview.

While Mengistu's Soviet-backed government habitually refuses to comment on

the progress of the civil war in Tigray, it was possible to piece together a reasonably reliable account from the reports of Yemane and Western diplomats attending a conference in Khartoum.

The rebels made dramatic advances in the rugged Tigray highlands early last year, driving government troops back into the major towns and cities along the main highway running from Addis Ababa north to Asmara and the Red Sea coast, according to the reports.

When the government mounted an all-out offensive in the early summer, the outnumbered guerrillas fell back gradually, allowing the troops to advance into their mountain stronghold in the region centred around Axum and Enda Selase, some 350 miles (565 km) north of Addis Ababa.

In a key battle during August, the rebels defeated a force of war-weary conscripts at Axum and nearby Adwa, leaving three divisions trapped in Enda Selase, unable to escape either eastward to the main highway, or south to Gondar, capital of the neighbouring province 120 miles (195 km) away.

The government reinforced the Enda Selase garrison by air until it had some 32,000 troops and then, on Feb 10, tried to break out eastward toward the main highway and Mekele.

Yemane said the rebels allowed the column to stretch out over the 30 miles to Axum, then fell on them in two places.

"We cut them into three parts and annihilated them one by one," he said, claiming the government lost 7,250 killed or wounded and 1,750 captured in the one-day battle.

The TPLF claims to have killed or wounded another 3,400 five days later in a battle east of Enda Selase and driven the remainder back to the city, where they were routed in a decisive battle on Feb 19. "We are still chasing them even today," said Yemane, who claimed that 12,000 troops have been captured since that battle.

Less than one week later, the rebel radio reported the government garrison had evacuated Mekele "with its tail between its legs."

Diplomatic sources confirmed the fall of Mekele and said even the highly dramatic casualty figures released by the rebels appear to be more or less accurate.

The government had 20,000 troops in Mekele, a Western diplomat said. "They were well-supplied and fortified, so everyone was very surprised when they started moving everyone out in an orderly

way and Mekele.

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Soviet - Japan talks on islands

By Nao Nakanishi

TOKYO, (Reuters): The Soviet Union and Japan today begin their first official talks on a territorial dispute that has prevented them from signing a peace treaty formally ending World War Two.

Political analysts said they expected no immediate progress on the tricky problem of the islands known in Japan as the Northern Territories, occupied by Soviet troops in the final days of the war.

A group of international strategists, including former US National Security Adviser McGeorge Bundy, said in Tokyo last week they believed Moscow could hand back at least one of the islands to help open up its relations with East Asian countries.

Committee

During Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Japan last December, the two sides agreed to set up a committee to discuss the island question.

Japan has refused to improve relations with the Soviet Union or to promote investment and the transfer of technology Moscow badly needs until the islands are returned.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said he hoped some progress would be made on the issue at the talks, being held at the vice-ministerial level in Tokyo. They are scheduled to last three days.

"Do not expect concrete results," said Kenichi Ito, professor of politics at Tokyo's Aoyama Gakuin University.

"But the talks are not meaningless, because the Soviet Union has until now always denied the existence of such a dispute," he said.

Earlier this week, Moscow acknowledged that an island on the Amur River on its border with China belonged to China, a significant breakthrough on the long-standing Sino-Soviet territorial dispute.

Strategic

But the Northern Territories at the end of the Kurile chain, have much greater strategic value for Moscow. They straddle an important exit to the Pacific Ocean from the Sea of Okhotsk, a key operational ground for the Soviet Navy.

"The islands are not simply a bilateral issue. Moscow has to think about it in the context of its relations with the United States," said Masamori Sase, professor of political science at the National Defence Academy.

Analysts said Japan, on the other hand, is unlikely to give up its claim on the islands.

They have little economic or strategic value for Japan, but the government considers it a matter of basic national dignity, they said.

However, Sase said: "Japan's bargaining power will increase as time passes. The Soviet Union's economic problems will become more serious and they will be more in need of support from Japan for economic development."

Considerations

Political analysts expect economic considerations will eventually outweigh the strategic importance of the islands, especially if the current atmosphere of détente continues.

Moscow needs to improve relations with Japan just as it is doing with Western Europe to justify its cut in defence spending and reduction of armaments, said Kuniko Inoguchi, associate professor of political science at Sophia University.

"Japan should not wait too long to drive the Soviet Union into a corner and miss an historic chance to improve relations with Moscow at a time when the global situation should work for it," she said.

the accusations against Yeltsin. His remarks were shown on television across the country on Friday.

Among the subjects of complaint were Yeltsin's suggestion that the party itself should be subject to overall control by the Soviets — government bodies whose role Gorbachev himself says must be radically improved.

Yeltsin was accused of promoting the idea of a multi-party system and of calling for the creation of a second youth organisation in competition with the young Communist League Komsomol.

Medvedev said. According to Medvedev, the populist rebel who is still a member of the central committee took the floor to say he had not called for a multi-party system but had argued for the idea to be discussed widely in the media.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Rakowski confers with Saddam on reconstruction

French enterprises urged to take active role

BAGHDAD, March 18. (Agencies) Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein today for talks on Polish involvement in Iraqi war reconstruction, the Iraqi News Agency, INA said.

The agency said Rakowski expressed Poland's readiness to share in the development of Iraq after its eight-year war with Iran and also said Warsaw wanted to expand co-operation.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Ambassador to France, Abdul Razzak Al Hashemi called France for an active role by French enterprises in the post-war reconstruction efforts of his country, underlining the Iraqi economy's ability to start joint ventures with them.

The ambassador was speaking last evening in a seminar on the economy of Iraq after the war and the hindrances facing the reconstruction efforts. The seminar was organised by the business c. Jege of the "Ecole National des Ponts et Chaussees."

Al Hashemi said that with

current oil prices and production level, Iraq's oil income is estimated at \$14 billion a year. The oil prices are expected to go up even further to settle at a rate of \$22 per barrel.

"But we will not live to pay our debt. We cannot ask our people to live in hardships now after enjoying a normal way of life during the war," said Ambassador Al Hashemi, "and we hope the French would understand that part."

French sources told the Kuwait News Agency that the Iraqi debt was discussed in Baghdad during the recent visit of French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Marie Rausch.

"The French delegation asked for payment of a token value sum before rescheduling the debt," one French source said.

The Iraqi ambassador said Europe must develop better understanding to Arab economic problems because the oil-producing Arab world is the main consumer market in the world in the next two decades.

US energy system could handle loss of oil imports

Prices expected to rise sharply

WASHINGTON, March 18. (AP) The US energy system could handle a sudden and sustained loss of oil imports without suffering shortages of gasoline and other refined oil products, although prices might jump, a government-sponsored study has concluded.

The study by the National Petroleum Council, an advisory group to the Energy Department, said the key to managing an import cutoff is quick action by the government to tap into the strategic petroleum reserve's underground oil stocks.

In the event of a loss of oil imports equal to 3 million barrels a day — representing about 40 per cent of last year's average import rate — the strategic reserves in

Louisiana and Texas could be used to meet most of the shortfall, according to a draft of the study provided yesterday to the Associated Press. The study assumed the imported oil would be cut off for three months.

Reserves

The strategic reserves currently hold about 555 million barrels of crude oil. The system was created by Congress in 1975 in response to the Arab oil embargo that year.

The study made no firm predictions about price increases resulting from a supply emergency, but John Lichtblau, a private energy expert who helped compile the draft report, said in an interview that prices would be expected to rise sharply even if the oil transport system

succeeded in averting shortages.

Energy industry officials and many on Capitol Hill have voiced increasing alarm in recent weeks at a trend toward rapidly growing US dependence on foreign oil. Imports last year equalled 42 per cent of supply, up from 31 per cent in 1985. This trend is linked to a drop in US oil output and rising consumption.

Concern

The concern has fuelled an oil industry drive to win congressional approval to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife refuge in northern Alaska and off the shores of California and Florida, where prospects for discoveries are considered good.

Debt strategy exacerbates world hunger

ROME, March 18. (Reuters) The head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) yesterday strongly attacked economic policies imposed on Third World countries by international creditors, saying they exacerbated world hunger.

In an unusually harsh speech, director-general Edouard Saouma also said the agricultural policies of industrialised countries were sinking the Third World further into debt and widening the imbalance between rich and poor.

Saouma singled out for criticism structural adjustment programmes — the policy of

radical public spending cuts imposed on debtors by international financial bodies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

"The tragedy is that these programmes start with radical austerity measures that merely aggravate the economic difficulties and social tensions within the population," he said in a speech to European farmers' representatives.

"In extreme cases, this can bring hungry people out onto the streets in riots, as happened quite recently," he said in a reference to unrest in Venezuela three

weeks ago in which at least 276 people died.

Last November Saouma called for a direct role for FAO in debt negotiations between impoverished nations and international finance institutions, but yesterday's was the most direct attack he has made on their policies.

Saouma said hunger would not be alleviated simply by increasing food production. He charged that farm subsidies in richer countries not only caused surpluses blocking Third World food imports but also led to over-priced exports.

AMF tries to unify rates on loans

ABU DHABI, March 18. (KUNA) The Arab Monetary Fund has adopted new terms aimed at unifying interest rates on its loans to its members and also decided to facilitate lending terms.

AMF's director-general Abdulla Al Quais told KUNA that the council of the fund's executive managers which met here last Thursday had dropped seven out of nine interest rates to facilitate dealing between the fund and the recipients of its loans.

He said the council had decided to subject interest rates to reconsideration according to

the fund's needs and the prices of interest rates at the international market.

All Arab countries, except Djibouti, are members in the AMF and they are entitled to benefit from loans, the volume of which would be determined according to their contributions to the AMF's capital.

Al Quais said the council had approved the basic structure for the Arab trade financing programme and asked the fund's council of governors which comprises Arab finance ministers to endorse the payment of \$250 million, allocated by the AMF for the programme's capital.

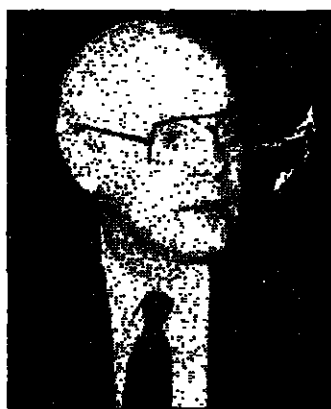
Ford executives visit Kuwait

By Diane Diaz
Arab Times staff

FIVE American executives from the car-making powerhouse Ford have made a brief stop in Kuwait to meet with the local Ford dealer and other Ford representatives.

The American group, headed by Robert Sparvero, general manager of Ford International export sales, held a one-day seminar at the Regency Palace Hotel yesterday.

The representatives arrived from Saudi Arabia, where they attended the inauguration of a new showroom at a dealership in Riyadh.



Robert Sparvero

Sales

Ford was on the boycott list in Kuwait from 1966 to October 1986. After two-and-a-half years in the Kuwait market, Ford claims 11 per cent of the market share in new auto sales.

The local Ford dealership, known as Arabian Motors Group, said it has not lost business because of the boycott.

"When Ford came in (to Kuwait) it was like a breeze coming in and getting all the dust out," said Peter Benham, marketing and sales manager of Arabian Motors.

He said Ford products are increasingly popular in the Gulf, especially amongst people who have travelled widely and have had experience with Ford vehicles in other countries.

Takeshita's popularity dives

TOKYO, March 18. (AP) With a stock trading scandal that has reached the highest levels of government and an unpopular sales tax to become effective soon, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's public approval rating plunged to 15 per cent, and a leading newspaper today said the nation should consider asking the Takeshita cabinet to resign.

A poll by the daily Asahi Shimbun, taken from 3,000 adult men and women throughout the nation March 15 and 16, showed that Takeshita's supporters plunged to 15 per cent from 28 per cent in January, with 74 per cent of those surveyed desiring that the administration be dissolved.

The poll showed that supporters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party turned away from the prime minister, with 52 per cent calling for Takeshita's resignation.

In an editorial today, the newspaper wrote that to restore public confidence in government it is "indispensable to reconstruct politics from the beginning" by dissolving the powerful lower house of parliament and holding general elections.

"We should consider asking the Takeshita cabinet to resign before the House is dissolved so as to clarify the responsibility of the government and the LDP before the public," the editorial said.



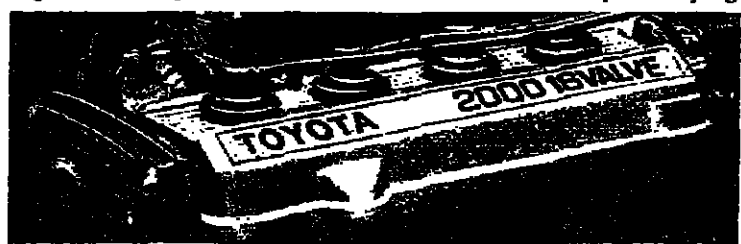
The Corona comes packed with so many smart features, no wonder people are calling it the thinking man's car.

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another one like it in its class. Nor one that goes much easier on gas. Check the amazing appearance of the Corona. Sleek and compact on the outside. Big and roomy on the inside. Take a look at its aerodynamic styling.

It not only looks beautiful, it slices right through the wind. Very smart. And its totally redesigned interior will let you thrill to the excitement of the open road in relaxing comfort and whisper quiet. Simply ingenious.

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Market indices still show weaker trend

Kuwait trade volume surges

THE Alshah Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 36.56 points with an increase of 0.23 point — 0.63 per cent — over last week's average. The Alshah Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 70.08 points with a decrease of 1.59 point — 2.22 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshah, Economic Consultants' weekly report.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 11.72 million shares at a daily average of 2.34 million shares with an increase of 81 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 1.29 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 2.96 million shares at a daily average of 0.59 million shares with a decrease of 58 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.42 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD3.43 million at a daily average of KD0.686 million, an increase of 121 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.311 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.159 million at a daily average of KD0.032 million, a decrease of 64 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.089 million.

Activity

Market performance shows signs of increased relative activity following the sharp decrease which occurred last week. However, all three indices still show low levels of absolute activity. In the non-Kuwaiti shares market, a decline in activity compared to last week's higher levels was recorded.

Two companies have declared their financial positions and dividend distributions in the Kuwaiti shares market which brings up the total to 55 per cent of listed Kuwaiti companies, and 29 per cent for the non-Kuwaiti market.

The total percentage of listed companies that have declared dividend distributions for the year 1988, has reached 51 per cent compared to 59 per cent for both 1987 and 1986.

"We believe that around 40 per cent of listed companies are unable to distribute dividends for 1988 and, certain companies are declaring dividend distributions that do not reflect actual company performance."

Decrease

"The market is witnessing a decrease in company prices which in our opinion is the right time for such companies to take major decisions in improving their financial positions or to go under voluntary liquidation."

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector had the lead at 59 per cent of total trading against 54 per cent last week. The Commercial Bank had the lead at 27 per cent, followed by Kuwait Finance House at 22 per cent and The Gulf Bank at 16 per cent.

The investment sector came second at 20 per cent, of which Kuwait Investment Projects had the lead at 34 per cent, followed by Commercial Facilities at 22 per cent and National Investments at 15 per cent. The services sector came third at 16 per cent of which Public Warehousing led at 69 per cent, followed by Kuwait Commercial Markets at 22 per cent and Mobile Telephone Systems at 9 per cent. For the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 38 per cent, followed by Arabian Investment Company (SHUAA) at 35 per cent and Bahrain Middle East Bank at 15 per cent.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 15/03/89	Wednesday 08/03/89	Change points
Banking Sector	102.03	100.89	1.15
The National Bank			

The Gulf Bank	30.25	29.00	1.24
The Commercial Bank	22.65	22.21	0.44
Al Ahli Bank	26.43	25.47	0.96
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	28.06	30.26	-2.19
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	30.00	30.00	—
Burgan Bank	25.27	24.78	0.50
Kuwait Finance House	64.01	63.49	1.51
Sector Index	42.54	42.07	0.47
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	25.71	25.71	—
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	17.87	17.87	—
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	61.90	63.49	-1.59
IFA	41.18	41.18	—
Commercial Facilities	118.75	121.25	-2.50
National Investments	65.69	66.67	-0.98
Kuwait Investment Proj.	87.64	85.39	2.25
Sector Index	38.10	38.25	-0.15
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	38.05	38.05	—
Gulf Insurance Co.	27.69	27.69	—
Al Ahleia Insurance Co.	49.09	45.09	—
Warba Insurance Co.	58.42	58.42	—
Sector Index	37.58	37.58	—
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	17.59	17.84	-0.25
United Realty	6.03	6.25	-0.22
National Real Estate	38.22	38.22	—
Sector Index	14.14	14.34	-0.20
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	11.59	11.59	—
Refrigeration Indust.	73.57	73.57	—
Gulf Cables	109.73	109.73	—
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	48.89	48.00	0.89
Sector Index	28.35	28.30	0.04
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	162.00	162.00	—
Kuwait Cinema Co.	8.56	8.56	—
Public Warehousing Co.	66.67	61.62	5.05
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	34.99	31.31	3.68
Mobile Telephone Syst.	247.62	257.14	-9.52
Sector Index	50.50	50.06	0.43
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	48.41	48.41	—
United Fisheries	9.92	9.92	—
Kuwait United Poultry	83.61	83.61	—
Kuwait Food Co.	68.97	68.97	—
Sector Index	42.51	42.51	—
Overall Index	36.56	36.33	0.23

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 15/03/89	Wednesday 08/03/89	Change points
First Gulf Bank	144.74	144.74	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	88.28	95.55	-8.28
Bahrain M. East Bank	98.71	98.71	—
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	81.90	80.95	0.95
Arabian Gen. Inv. (SHUAA)	50.00	48.48	1.52
Umm Al Quain Cement	16.87	16.87	—
Gulf Medical Projects	20.83	20.83	—
Total Index	70.08	71.67	-1.59

—Base Period 31/12/1983.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

KD deposits ease as Saudi riyal rates marked higher

KUWAIT, March 18, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposits eased today on expectations government salary and National Day bonus payments will boost liquidity in the next few days.

Dealers said liquidity was already swollen by a three-month 100 million dinar treasury bill issue that matured last Wednesday. A replacement issue for the same amount was largely taken up by the Central Bank, they said.

The short-dates were well offered, with overnight at three, two per cent and tomorrow and spot-next at six, five per cent with tomorrow-next deals at six per cent.

Funds

One-week funds dealt at eight per cent. The fixed rates slipped about 1/4 point but trading was quiet with the one-month at 8-7/8, 3/8 per cent, two-month at nine, 8-3/4 per cent, three-month at 9-3/8, 8-7/8 per cent and six-month at 9-5/8, 1/8 per cent.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate softer to 0.28938/48 to the dollar from 0.28921/31 on Thursday while commercial banks quoted spot rates of 0.28913/88.

Meanwhile Saudi riyal deposit rates were marked higher in a typically quiet market in response to sharp rises in Eurodollar rates yesterday.

Stocks and bonds tumble

US producer price rise spurs fear of rate hikes

THE batch of data releases this week, including figures for capacity utilisation, industrial production, housing starts and the revision of retail sales all suggest signs of slower growth in the US economy. However, the strong PPI number indicates that inflation has yet to follow suit, and accordingly implies that the present restrictive monetary policy will remain in place, the NRB weekly market review has said.

Concern that the Federal Reserve Board will raise interest rates abounded in financial markets after the US government reported that producer prices surged in February for the second straight month.

Wall Street share prices tumbled and Treasury bond prices tumbled on Friday. Concerted intervention by the major European central banks pulled the dollar back from its best level of DM1.8760 but the US unit still ended the week high at DM1.87 and yen 131.6.

Drop

Retail sales — unexpectedly fell 0.4 per cent in February following a 0.7 per cent rise in January. This was the largest drop since April 1988.

Current account — deficit fell

to \$31.91 billion in the fourth quarter of 1988 compared to a \$32.61 billion gap in the third quarter and a \$33.52 billion shortfall in the fourth quarter of 1987. The deficit fell to \$135.33 billion in 1988 from \$153.96 billion and was the first narrowing of the gap since 1981.

Merchandise trade — the deficit was lower than expected \$9.49 billion in January compared to \$10.99 billion in December and \$9.77 billion in January 1988. Exports fell 4.3 per cent to \$27.80 billion while imports fell 6.9 per cent to \$37.29 billion.

Business inventories — as expected rose 0.7 per cent in January after a 0.9 per cent December rise. Business inventories rose 7.6 per cent for the whole of 1988.

Capacity utilisation was slightly lower than anticipated at 84.3 per cent in February down from 84.5 per cent in January and up from 82.4 per cent in February 1988. This was the first fall since September last year.

Industrial production was unchanged in February following a 0.4 per cent increase in January and December. The market was expecting a 1.2 per cent decrease.

Housing starts fell 11.4 per

cent in February compared with a 7.2 per cent rise in January. This was the biggest decline since the May fall of 11.7 per cent.

Producer prices rose one per cent in February unchanged from January. This was double the 0.5 per cent increase expected.

Data on the economy tends to confirm a slowdown in activity in response to the current high interest rates policy.

The unexpected fall in retail sales, although a notoriously volatile figure, provisionally confirms a rising trend in personal savings which have increased by near on five per cent in the three months to January.

Additionally, lower exports provided evidence of a slowdown in the manufacturing sector whilst lower imports also signal a weakening in consumer demand. Housing starts, a prime indicator of future economic activity fell over 11 per cent in February. There was also no increase in industrial production for the first time in over a year. This slowing down in activity has correspondingly reduced capacity utilisation. The recent economic figures suggest a moderation in US growth as underlined in the Federal Reserve Board's recent report.

KUWAIT									
BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE			
NATIONAL BANK	0.890	0.900	0.910	0.900	620000	17			
GULF BANK	0.365	0.370	0.370	0.370	10000	1			
COMMERCIAL BK	0.260	—	—	—	—	—			
ANLI BANK	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	60000	2			
B.K.M.E.	0.320	—	—	—	—	—			
K.R.E.B.	0.350	—	—	—	—	—			
BURGAN BANK	0.255	0.260	0.260	0.260	70000	4			
K.F.HOUSE	0.430	0.445	0.445	0.435	410000	21			
INVESTMENT SECTOR									
KWT INV. CO.	0.140	—	—	—	—	—			
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	—	—	—	—	—			
K.I.I.C.	0.104	—	—	—	—	—			
CON.FACILITIES	0.475	—	—	—	—	—			
ARLHIA INV.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—			
I.F.A.	0.056	—	—	—	—	—			
INV. PEARL KWT	0.078	—	—	—	—	—			
NATIONAL INV.	0.067	—	—	—	—	—			
KWT PROJECTS	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.077	560000	9			
INSURANCE SECTOR									
KWT INSURANCE	0.700	—	—	—	—	—			
GULF INSURANCE	0.360	—	—	—	—	—			
ARLHIA INS. CO.	0.510	—	—	—	—	—			
WARBA INS. CO.	0.340	—	—	—	—	—			
REAL EST SECTOR									
KWT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.138	—	—	—	—	—			
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.054	—	—	—	—	—			
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.192	—	—	—	—	—			
SALHIAH R.E.	0.080	—	—	—	—	—			
KWT R.E.I.COM	0.000	—	—	—	—	—			
INDUSTRY SECTOR									
NAT IND. CO.	0.520	—	—	—	—	—			
KWT M.P. IND.	0.280	—	—	—	—	—			
KWT CEMENT CO.	0.170	—	—	—	—	—			
REF. IND. CO.	0.355	—	—	—	—	—			

AMMAN

ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	OPNG	CLSG	FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.75	0.71	JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79	0.83	LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.74	0.75
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.84	1.84	GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.55	4.60	JOR LIN BRICK	0.21	0.21	MACH/EGQ/REPAIR/MAIN	0.79	0.79
ARAB BANK	144.7	141.0	GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63	JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50	MAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.67	4.69	GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.35	1.27	JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.55	2.55	MID EAST EXCHANGE	1.17	1.17
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.44	2.41	GENERAL MINING	2.20	2.10	JOR PAPER CARDBRDS	3.75	3.65	MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	0.80	0.80
ARAB INSURANCE	1.04	1.03	HIMMEL MINERALS	0.75	0.75	JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.44	3.44	MIDDLE EAST INS	1.98	1.99
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.57	0.57	HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	EJ	JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.77	1.75	MINERALS RESEARCH	0.74	0.75
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.25	1.23	IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.69	0.68	JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79	1.72	NAT.FIN.INVEST CO	1.98	2.00
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.83	0.85	INDSTRL DEVLPT BAK	1.64	1.60	JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.40	NAT/CABEL/WIRE/MF	1.42	1.44
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.35	2.35	INDSTRL/COM/INVR.	1.60	1.66	JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.99	0.98	NATIONAL AHLIA INS	1.46	1.39
ARAB PAPER COM/TRA	0.43	0.43	INDSTRL INVEST.	0.75	0.75	JOR SECURIT CORP.	1.12	1.11	NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.96	0.97
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	2.94	2.95	INTER. COM/INV	0.13	0.13	JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.74	2.72	NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.93	0.95
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	0.99	0.98	IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.90	0.90	JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.77	1.78	NATIONAL STEEL	2.83	2.77
ARAB POTASH CO.	—	—	ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64	JOR WORSTED MLL	5.60	5.40	ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65	ITEMED/PETRI/CH	1.60	1.61	JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.95	0.95	PETRA BANK	2.60	2.40
BANK OF JORDAN	15.20	15.25	J.TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.79	0.80	JOR. PETROLIUM REF	7.90	7.88	PETRA JOR. INS.	0.35	0.35
BEIT AL-MAL/BEITNA	0.90	0.95	JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29	JOR.FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45	PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.10	1.11
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95	JOR TOBACCO/CIGARET	20.00	19.50	JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	2.45	2.39	RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	1.82	1.91
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	31.00	EC	JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.95	1.95	JORDAN GULF REAL	0.37	0.37	REAL ESTATE INV.	0.65	0.65
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25	JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05	JORDAN DAIRY	0.96	0.96	SHIPPING LINES	1.05	1.05
DAR AL SHAH PRESS	0.51	0.51	JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.54	1.50	JORDAN GULF BANK	1.34	1.31	SHIPPING MOVING	1.10	1.09
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	2.34	2.35	JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22	JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95	THE HOUSING BANK	1.05	1.05
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.78	0.79	JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.01	1.01	JORDAN INSURANCE	3.59	3.57	UNITED ASSURANCE	1.18	1.18
			JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30	JORDAN ISLAMIC BAK	2.04	2.05	UNIVERSAL CHEM.	3.18	3.18
			JOR INDUSTRY CHEN.	2.21	2.25	JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.52	1.45	UNIVERSAL INS.	0.65	0.68
			JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20	JORDAN TANNING	2.01	2.05	WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	1.00	1.05
									YARNOLK INSURANCE	1.35	1.35

No coup danger: Aquino

PRESIDENT Aquino has brushed off any new coup attempt by the group of former Army colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan in the wake of his threat to establish a "crisis government" in a letter sent to her through Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos.

Aquino told newsmen she does not consider Honasan a threat to her government "because he does not have the support of the military."

"He has made several announcements before," President Aquino said.

The President added that the letter supposedly from Honasan to her has not yet been forwarded by Ramos to Malacañang.

The authenticity of the letter has not yet been officially established, military sources said.

President Aquino, her aides said, is confident of the full support of the military. They added that she is also sure of the backing of the civilian populace, especially now that the economy is on the upswing.

Home province clamours for his return

'Marcos is not a cheater'

BARANGAY FERDINAND, Ilocos Norte, (AP) — Ferdinand Marcos' fellow northerners are clamouring for his return and warn that his death in exile would deepen the estrangement many of them feel toward the President Aquino administration.

"This is his home. Besides, he is very bright, and he gave us a lot," said Chit Guarin, 27, a medical technician who works near this village named in honour of Ilocos Norte province's favourite son.

Aquino has refused to allow Marcos to return from exile in Hawaii, despite claims from his family that the ailing, 71-year-old former president is dying. Marcos has been hospitalised since January with heart and respiratory ailments.

Government officials in Manila, 386 kilometres to the south claim most Filipinos agree with Aquino's decision, which she says is based on national security. Marcos has lived in Hawaii since he was overthrown in a popular uprising three years ago.

But in Ilocos Norte province and other Ilocano-speaking areas of the north, the former president is still widely viewed as a hero, denied his rightful place of leadership by usurpers in Manila.

"He is a blood brother and a



Marcos: still popular in his hometown

"It's not a question of being a Christian. It's a question of being a Christian," said Rev. Rock Bonano, spokesman of the Roman Catholic archdiocese. "I would prefer that he (Marcos) be given the chance to come back and die in his country. He is already powerless. I don't see why many people are so afraid."

Bonano said he did not accept Aquino's claim that allowing Marcos to return would threaten political stability.

"It would seem that this government is weak," he said. "They are contradicting themselves. As a Christian, I don't want to see these things. It's the easy way out for our government officials."

They are just washing their hands."

At the Marcos Agro-Industrial School, a state-funded elementary and high school, students at a fourth-grade class were asked if they wanted Marcos to return. "Yes," they shouted in unison.

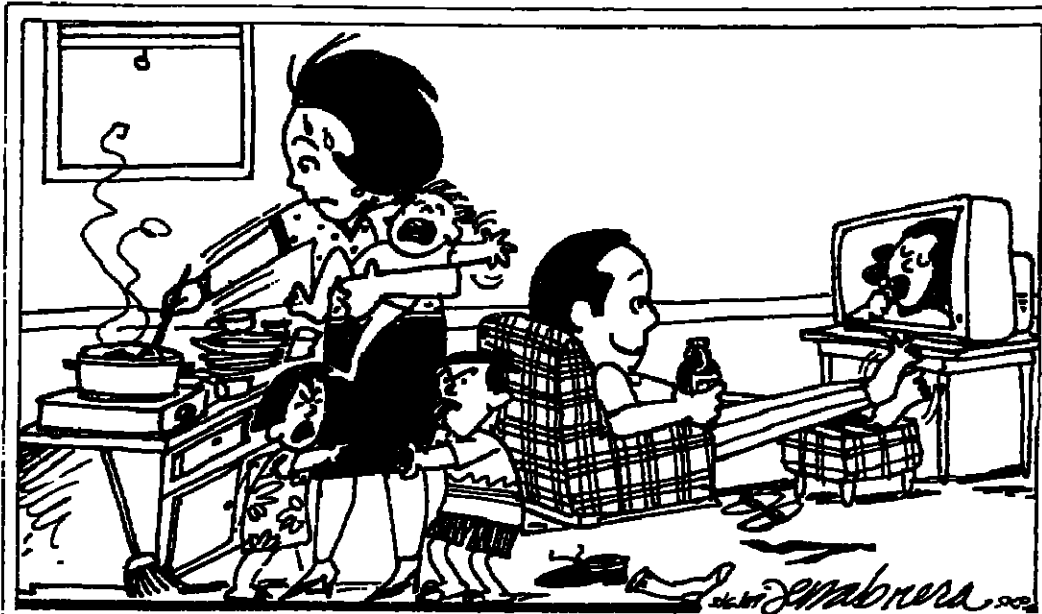
"Marcos, Marcos, we are still for Marcos," the children chanted flashing the "V-for-Victory" sign associated here with the Marcos movement.

"Marcos is not the cheater. Cory is the cheater," chimed in 11-year-old Dennis Mamayan, referring to Aquino by her nickname.

"We don't want what Cory is doing to Marcos. She is trying to picture Marcos as a thief," said Arnel Ramirez, 7.

Adults here fondly recall a visit that Marcos paid to their remote, mountain hamlet during the 1950s, when he was a member of the Philippine Senate. Others recall the infrastructure projects which Marcos provided for his home province.

"Before 1963, no vehicles entered our place," resident Helen Abregado said. "But after that, we had roads and electricity."



International Women's Day message

Cory slams sexist advertising

CORAZON Aquino, Asia's first woman president, has condemned sexist advertising and said Filipino men should not feel threatened by the emerging role of women in the country.

She told a female audience on International Women's Day that advertisements sometimes depicted women as objects of pleasure, not as human beings, and as second-rate citizens incapable of decisions beyond her kitchen and wardrobe.

Aquino called on the media to police their ranks, particularly the ladies, lest

they lend themselves unwittingly to the cause they seek to destroy.

She admitted that educating Filipinos to treat women as individuals who are entitled to rights and respect as much as men was a tough problem but "I do not want it said with any degree of credibility that under a woman president, the situation of Filipino women did not improve significantly."

Aquino said she had been appointing more and more women to high-ranking and policy-making positions, and without exception, they have proven their mettle. She

added that Filipino business managers were on a par with their male counterparts.

"After my term, each one (of the Filipinas) can aspire to become president."

"To the Filipino men I say: do not be threatened by these stirrings for equality and development. The women are not antimen. Nor are they governed by a destructive spirit of competition," she said.

However, they do want to be recognized for what they are and what they can achieve given the necessary encouragement and support from you.

(AFP)

Marriage? Think several times, says Puno

Divorce out of the question

By Marcia C. Rodriguez

IF you're thinking of getting married soon, think once, twice, or even several times before tying yourself down to your partner. There is no easy way out of a marriage even with the signing into law of the New Family Code that provides more grounds for annulment.

And if you're already married, be ready to accept the truism that your marriage was not made in heaven.

Former justice secretary Ricardo Puno, one of the members of a committee that drafted the New Family Code, said the code embodies provisions for the nullification of marriage which is tantamount to "divorce."

However, divorce is still not

allowed in the Philippines, Puno stressed at the weekly "Bulong Pulungan" forum at the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Puno said a Filipino may be allowed to remarry if he or she marries a foreigner who later goes abroad, takes the initiative to seek a divorce, and is granted a divorce.

Another ground for voiding a marriage is the psychological incapacity of the spouse which must have existed at the time of marriage, although the signs might not be obvious then. The psychological disorder must be serious and incurable, Puno said.

Congressman Mike Romero of Negros Oriental, author of the code which was signed into law by President Aquino on Aug. 3, 1988, said that under the New

Family Code, an individual or couple may file a petition to annul their marriage within 10 years from the time the law takes effect.

Romero said the new code, particularly Section 36, is a relief for couples, especially those who have been separated for years but are not able to remarry. He cited that one out of five couples in the Philippines today are living separately.

Section 36 of the New Family Code provides that couples who have been separated for five to 10 years and have had liaisons with a third party may be allowed to file a petition for annulment of marriage and remarry civilly.

But Romero stressed that the intent of the New Family Code is to dissuade couples from break-

ing up. He said the New Family Code also provides that a man and a woman must be at least 18 years old at the time of marriage, while the Family Code of 1950 allowed marriage among couples below 18 years.

A minimum age of 18 is required because couples who marry later have greater chances of making a marriage work rather than couples who marry early in life, Romero said.

A marriage between underaged couples is considered void. A judge who performs the marriage of minors will be held liable under the law, Puno said.

A couple below 18 years will not be allowed to marry even with parental consent, while those between 21 to 25 need

parental advice, he added.

As a precaution against marriage breakups, the New Family Code requires couples to undergo marriage counselling after which they receive a certificate.

Puno said that illegitimate children will be allowed to bear only the surname of the mother under the new code. Under the previous code, the illegitimate child may take the surname of the father if he or she is acknowledged to be a natural child.

On the removal of mayors' function to wed couples, Romero said this provision is for the protection of the mayors themselves. They will not have to be unduly pressured to marry couples.

Getting a head start in beauty



A group photo of all the participants who attended KAPILKU's one-day course on hairdressing. (Photos by Javed Basra)

MORE than 60 enthusiastic participants of different nationalities — Filipinos, Indians and Kuwaitis attended KAPILKU's first-ever free hair beauty class at the Holiday Inn on Friday.

Versatile Luz Mesenas, the instructor, was instrumental in bringing this educational session to the Filipino community in Kuwait.

Participants were introduced to the basic techniques of hair-cutting, styling, perming, scalp massage treatment and hair dyeing.

Little Lily Adele Mesenas rendered an intermission song number entitled "Build Community" to the delight of all the participants who also sang with her.

Charge D'Affaires & Consul Olivia V. Palala of the Philippine Embassy was the guest of honour.

Gatekeepers were Ojie Olor, Jojo Medrano, Bada Borja, Jimmy Tadana, Lulu Alelojo, Sarah Macarimbang, Homer Mesina, Helen Inserto & Bella Medrano.

All the successful participants received Certificate of Attendance after the session, from KAPILKU's President Inserto who also thanked the sponsor, Samer Darwish of Boodai Aviation.



Luz Mesenas demonstrating a technique.

KAPILKU social calendar

Busy month for KAPILKU

KAPILKU announces the following free classes for its members:

One-day session

Baking Class — March 31 at Holiday Inn Hotel, Al Diwan from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. **Cooking Class (Asian Dishes)** — March 31 at Holiday Inn Hotel, Al Diwan from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.

Four-week session

Hotel and Restaurant Operations Class — Holiday Inn Hotel, auditorium, April 7 to May 5 (Every Friday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm).

This will cover the following topics:

HOTEL OPERATIONS
Front Office Procedures; Food & beverage management (kitchen operation/preparation and restaurant service); Housekeeping; Purchasing; Advertising and Promotions; Sales; Personnel and Administrative Procedures.

RESTAURANT OPERATIONS

Feasibility Study; Concept (Franchise and Local); Marketing; Management information System (MIS); Unit Operation (Cashing, preparation, order-

ing, storing/warehousing/hiring, reporting system and administrative).

For particulars, please contact Ojie Olor or Jojo Medrano on Tel. 5327023 (for baking and cooking classes) and Sarah Macarimbang (Hotel and Restaurant Classes) on 4843447.

Homer Mesina, vice-president for Media and External Affairs is the chairman for the Hotel and Restaurant Operations Class. Lulu Alelojo, AVP is the vice-chairperson and Pete Nierva is the vice-chairman.

KAPILKU night

Other forthcoming events are a KAPILKU NIGHT on — April 7 at Holiday Inn Hotel, Al Andalus Club from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm. This includes a sing-along contest and a Bagong Kampoon. Entrance fee is KD2,000. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Bayanihan

A Bayanihan will be held on April 21 at the Holy Family Cathedral (Church Hall) Kuwait city from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Entrance is free to all KAPILKU members.

Warning on 'Gringo'

ALBERTO Honasan, youngest brother of renegade Army Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, said that the Aquino government should seriously consider the nine demands of his brother or face trouble.

He said in his cell at the homicide section of the Western Police District (WPD), Ermita, that the government should look into the real causes of the coup attempt staged by his brother on Aug. 28, 1987.

The young Honasan is accused of killing his business partner last year.

Ruckus in council session

CALL it baptism of fire for this group of new appointees to the Manila city council.

Armed with their appointment letters from the Department of Local Government, four sectoral representatives and another appointee attended their first council meeting only to find themselves in the midst of a war between two groups of councillors.

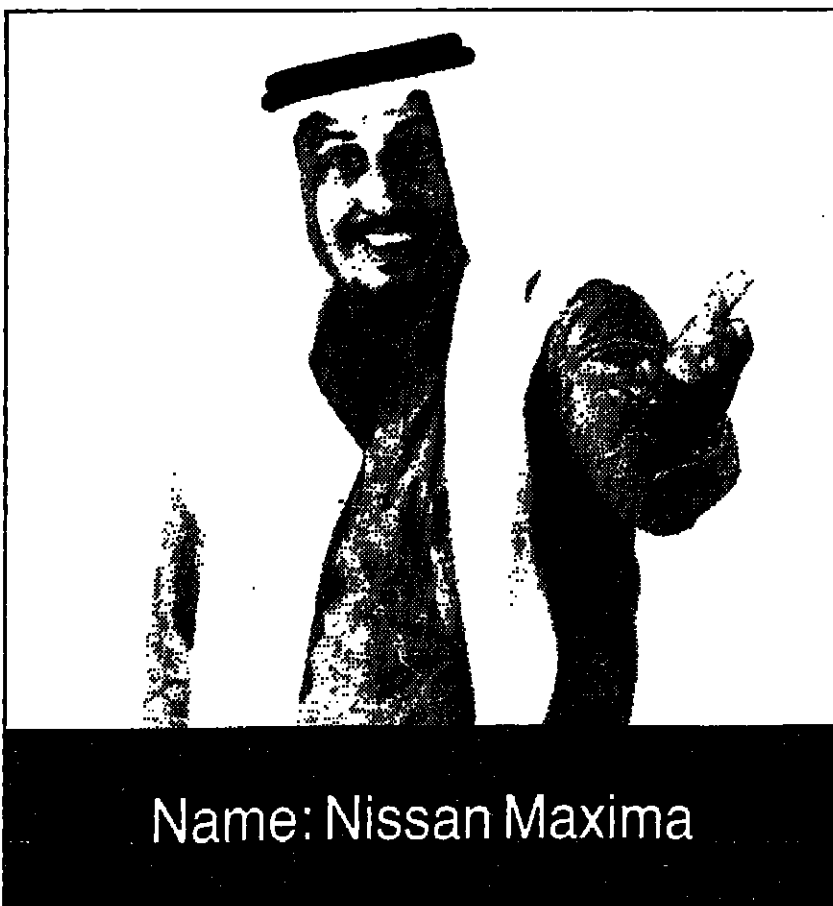
With the two camps arguing at the top of their voices, hurling invectives and accusing each other of having no right to be in the council, the session was cut short by the presiding officer, Manila Vice-Mayor Danilo Lacuna.

A group of 17 councillors, all members of the *Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino* (LDP) and associated with Mayor Mel Lopez Jr., walked out of a session last week.

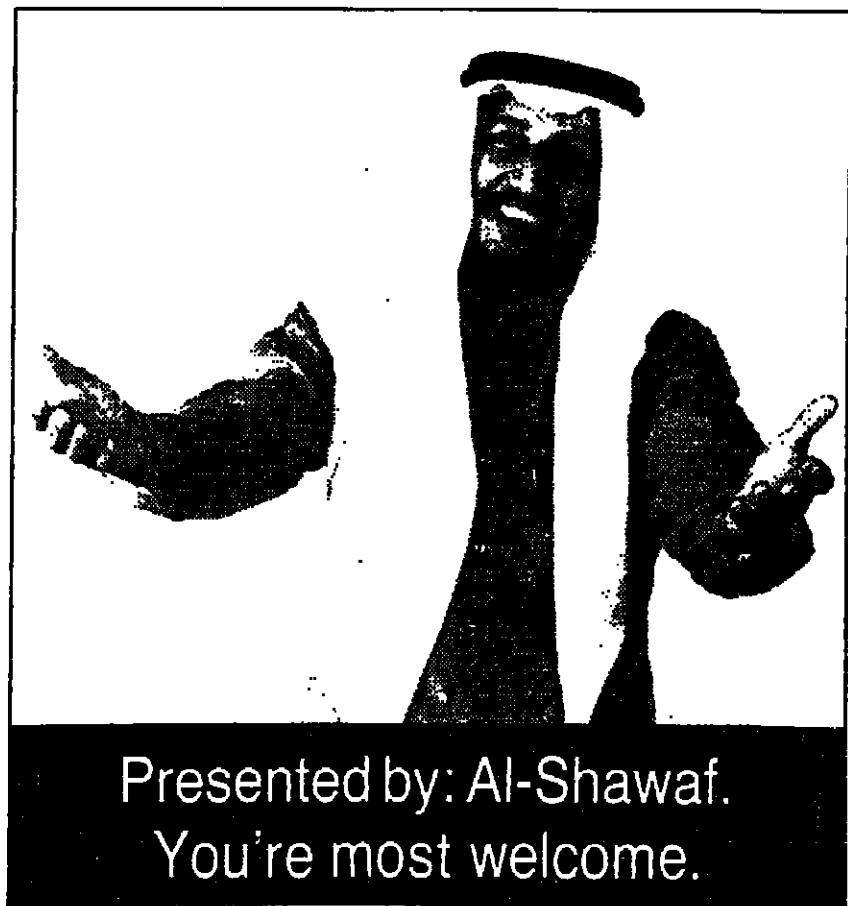
They contested the council reorganisation engineered by a so-called "conscience bloc" in the body.



You'll discover new driving for the 90's with a car that tops all other Japanese makes.



Name: Nissan Maxima



Presented by: Al-Shawaf.
You're most welcome.

Million dollar celebrities can't bank on happiness

Oh - so - rich ... but not at peace

By Judy Byrne

MONEY can't buy you love — or happiness.

So it seems for the mega-rich top ten celebrity earners of the year in the United States.

While millions of dollars poured into the bank, money problems were hardly a top priority — but for most, problems with their health, love lives and other personal problems just would not go away.

Every minute during 1988, eccentric star Michael Jackson was £60 richer — that is £86,400 by the end of the day. And it put him at the number one slot in the earnings top ten of the year at £32.4 million.

But it has not been a happy year for the lonely megastar, at odds with his family and in fear for his life.

'U.S.' magazine puts Mike Tyson in the number two slot with £24.3m. Third is Sylvester Stallone (£22.7m) ahead of Stephen Spielberg (£22.1m), George Michael (£19.4m) and Bill Cosby tied with Eddie Murphy (£18.9m).

Bringing up the rear with a mere £18.3m was Bruce Springsteen, followed by Charles Schulz, creator of the Snoopy cartoon (£17.2m), and Arnold Schwarzenegger (£13.5).

Between them they have also clocked up a whole host of assorted troubles besides.



Michael Jackson: morbid fear of death

Wacko Jacko's year hit its lowest ebb when he had serious throat trouble in November. He cancelled several concerts and was rushed to hospital for tests amid fears that his voice might be going.

He was already on the brink of exhaustion after a string of concerts around the world and was convinced at the time it was cancer. Fear of death is something of a morbid study for him. Insiders say an interest in numerology, the science of numbers, has left him convinced he will die in 1998.



Steven Spielberg: unlucky in love

Meanwhile, he takes bizarre precautions to avoid infection. He has had his entire entourage of 60 tested for AIDS and four who proved HIV-positive have been banned from coming anywhere near him.

A back-up musician, an aide and two technicians have stayed on the payroll — but been kept at a distance from the star.

His loyal manager Frank Dileo also admits: "There's a touch of acrimony with Michael's family right now because they feel he is drawing away from them."

The singer sacked his manager father, Joe, when he separated from his mother, Katherine. He lives in a lavish home of his own with a menagerie of animals as his closest companions. Favourite is his chimp, Bubbles.

But this solitary existence sounds almost idyllic when you line it up against Mike Tyson's recent past. His nine-month marriage to actress



Bruce Springsteen: millions of dollars in alimony

Millions of dollars poured into the bank for the top ten celebrity earners in the US last year. But most were still plagued by personal problems.

wife Robin Givens dealt a knockout blow and he turned to the bottle.

His lawyers say their joint bank account dwindled from £6,000,000 to £1,000,000 in their brief time together. Hers say that £1,000,000 transferred to her own account was "a gift."

Meanwhile, a hotel maid has told how Tyson paid her to stay with him in his bedroom — and read the Bible with him. He was afraid of the dark, said Kathy McQueen. He insisted on his bedside light being left on and cried himself to sleep.

In November, Tyson decided to go into battle for God. He was baptised by being immersed in a pool of water. But just two weeks later, three women complained to police in three days about sexual harassment by Tyson in discos.

It was not Sylvester Stallone's year either. Rambo III opened to disappointing box office returns after a troubled and expensive shoot. But Stallone still pocketed an estimated \$20 million. It is his love life and a bad Press he is worried about.

He says: "There have been reams of negative press about my private life."

After the break-up of his marriage to Brigitte Nielsen — which lasted only 20 months — Stallone has been picking up the pieces with a string of beauties, the latest of whom is model Jennifer Flaben.

Stallone, who has two sons from previous marriages, adds: "I've been fortunate in that my professional ambitions have been realised. Now it's my private life that needs to be realigned."

Relationship

"I want a family and I want an idealistic relationship, with the whole while picket fence, wife-at-the-front door thing. That's one goal I have left to achieve before I die."

Movie king Steven Spielberg looked as if he had achieved just that with actress Amy Irving whom he married when their son Max was five months old.

Mega-rich Spielberg, who has a string of homes around the world, became a doting father. But now they are divorcing and friends say he does not intend to haggle over cash for Amy because he wants to stay in close contact with Max.

A £60,000,000 pay-off is being talked about for the three years he was with Amy. His name is now being linked with that of actress Kate Capshaw whom he selected to co-star in his blockbuster Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.

Bruce Springsteen also combined mega-earnings with divorce after three years' marriage to model and actress Julianne Phillips and a secret settlement variously estimated at between £10,000,000 and £18,000,000. Julianne is now alone again and counting the emotional cost of marriage to a man who will not stop working.

Friends say she wanted to be a mother but also wanted a father to be around, while Bruce simply went on touring and touring. Finally she decided she had had enough.

Her insurance executive father, Bill Phillips, says: "Julie is from a small town. She's not a quitter. She wanted to make a name for herself in showbusiness to show Bruce she could make a contribution, too."

"But all she really wanted was to be a great wife and a good mother."

After the break-up, Bruce moved in with his red-haired backing

singer Patti Scialfa. But that relationship, too, is now over. Friends say that one problem was that Bruce told her he would never consider marrying again.

Worry

Biggest worry of the year for both George Michael and Bill Cosby has been health.

George Michael had to have an operation to repair damaged vocal chords and the future of his singing voice is still in doubt.

In the short-term he has been advised not to tour again after a year in which he had to cancel four Australian shows and nine in Europe. He is still seeing specialists.

Cosby is seeing specialists. He is fighting blindness after discovering he is suffering from glaucoma. He may need delicate laser surgery in an attempt to save his sight.

He also has a weight problem and is threatening to axe The Cosby Show rather than let TV viewers see him. He says: "I have always prided myself that I never looked my age. But with this added weight, I look every day of 50."

"I've got to find diet I can stick to and give up the ice cream and chocolate cakes."

His bosses are trying to persuade him that, fat or thin, the show must go on. Says one: "The show is a money-spinner, whatever size Cosby is."

"The trouble is, every time we try to discuss it he is munching a biscuit."

While Cosby fights the flab, Eddie Murphy is fighting a paternity suit — his second in just a few months. It comes from attractive woman lawyer Sharran Mesede who says Eddie is her husband. He maintains they have never met.

He says: "She bargains me with love notes. She even got her daughter to send me Father's Day cards."

Now Murphy has become engaged for the eighth time. He was dumped by Lisa Figueroa, also a lawyer, four years ago because of his roving eye. But now she has \$35,000 worth of his diamonds on her engagement finger.

She says: "Eddie knows with me it is his last shot. He begged me to take him back. I told him that if he blows it this time he won't get another chance."

Muscle-man Arnold Schwarzenegger might seem like a man without a care in the world. Besides making very big bucks he is married to a beautiful and successful wife, television personality Maria Schriver, who is one of the Kennedy clan.

Arnold and Maria married in 1986. Then Arnold, six times Mr Universe before he switched to making movies, began to look forward to the pitter of tiny feet.

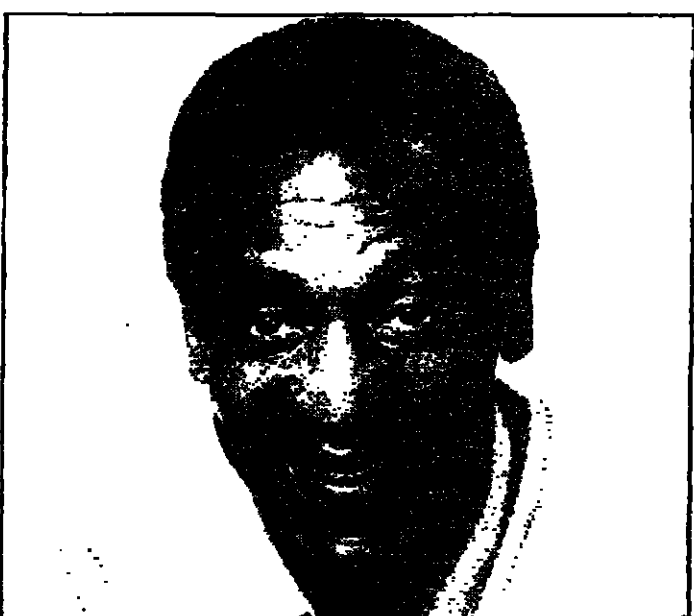
Sadly, the body-builder who now admits to having used steroids until he realised they were doing his body no good, is still waiting. And the couple are consulting therapists in the hope that they may be able to help.

Money can buy a lot. But not, it seems, immunity from all the troubles that plague the lives of the ordinary man or woman in the street.

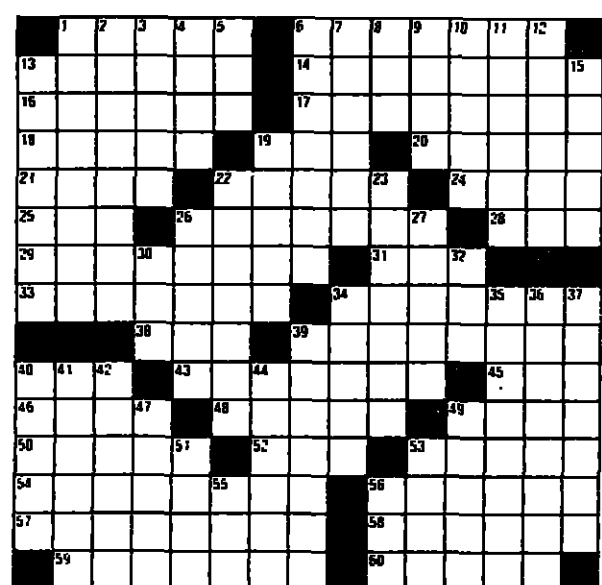
Not if the experiences of the past year's top earners are anything to go by.



Maria Kennedy Schriver and Arnold Schwarzenegger: waiting to hear the patter of tiny feet and (right) Bill Cosby, who has a health problem



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Former Turkish title
 - Feathered hair ornament
 - Idler
 - Hesitating
 - Winglooted, as a bat
 - Towel word
 - Proclaimed
 - Use the plus sign
 - Show respect for
 - Erect anew
 - Famous French fortress
 - Type of paint
 - Havens for sailors
 - Certain Abbr.
 - Sticky stuff
 - Baseball stats
 - Mediterranean country
 - Cuts off
 - Utiles
 - Rich pastry
 - Stranger
 - 12 A survivor
 - Commands a dog
 - Heath family
 - Make lace
 - Cuts off
 - Bivalve mollusk
 - 23 A new toy
 - Way to go
 - 26 Tell or Klee
 - 27 Salon specialties, for short
 - Troublesome
 - 55 Beret's Scottish cousin
 - Neckline style
 - 56 Pts. of gals.
 - Free from germs
- DOWN**
- 34 River Styx transports
 - 38 Chemical suffix
 - 39 Pilot
 - 40 Four-poster
 - 43 Upstarts
 - 45 Botanist Gray
 - 46 As before, Lat
 - 48 Andy's handle
 - 49 Ripener
 - 50 Small songbird
 - 52 Sept. and Oct
 - 53 Mud
 - 54 One who evokes
 - 56 Carpenter's machine
 - 57 Reduce in size
 - 58 Successful people
 - 59 Raged
 - 60 Small food fish

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BRAT GEER DEFOR
LOLA AXLE ADEPT
BOOM TEAL MARAT
STUBBORN AISAMULE
OAST TAG
JURGIN SMILEUPON
NEERDO OOT NARA
LENI RONNE DRAI
EVEN APE DOESNT
TETEATETE ARETE
GEN NATS
ONONESHIGHHORSE
GALLEN ALIE IONA
APART NINA LIUIS
MEINDS DIED SIEPT

GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
HELP FROM A 'FRIEND'

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 4
♥ K Q J 10 9 6
♦ 5 4 2
♣ 7 4 2

WEST
♠ 6 5
♥ 3
♦ Q J 10 8 7
♣ J 9 8 6 5

EAST
♠ 8 7 3 2
♥ A 5 4 2
♦ 9 3
♣ Q 10 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 9
♥ 8 7
♦ A K 6
♣ A K

The bidding:

South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

South would be a prime candidate for a club consisting of players who should be barred from holding a spade suit. Give them the master suit and there's no holding them in check.

South's opening bid was artificial and strong. North's response was natural, and South's rebid showed his suit. North jumped in hearts to indicate a suit good enough to play opposite a singleton, and his part-

ner's jump to the spade slam was pure selfishness—six hearts would have been laydown. But then again, this column would never have been written.

Against South's six-spade contract West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer did not like the look of things. Assuming one of the defenders could hold up the ace of hearts for one round, it seemed that he would have no place to park his diamond loser. But after a few minutes' study, he found a distribution where he could succeed.

He won the diamond in hand, drew four rounds of trumps, taking care to discard a diamond and two hearts from dummy—the low club was going to be needed. After cashing the ace-king of clubs, he led a heart. East had to hold up, and now the low club came into play—declarer ruffed it to extract East's last card in that suit.

Declarer cashed his remaining high diamond. He had to hope that one defender was reduced to nothing but hearts, so he exited with a heart. His wish came true. Down to the ace of hearts and two others, East had to win and yield declarer his fulfilling trick by returning a heart to the table's winner.



"I can get time off for bad behavior."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You will be able to have an interesting day. Do not expect too much from others. Make sure you eat or drink no more than you should. Be resilient.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
You will be able to have a quiet and relaxing day. You should not do anything that might upset those around you. Take the possible care of your health. Be accurate.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)**
You will be in a rather better mood, well able to tolerate a bit of misfortune. You should try to take your mind off work for the day. Do not be in too great a hurry, just get on with it. Be moderate.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19**
Something that has been puzzling you will now become clear. You should make every effort to improve relations with your partner. Pay a little more attention to details without becoming fussy. Be frugal.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You will not be quite sure about what to do in the circumstances. However, your partner will help you to see your way more clearly. You will have something to be pleased about. Be confident.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**
You should not try to escape the consequences of your actions. The Moon's influence will help you to act as decisively as you ought. You should concentrate on improving relations with your friends. Be generous.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
The Moon's better influence will help you to live up to expectations. And Jupiter's influence will assist you to act as you should in the circumstances. Do not allow yourself to be led astray. Be reasonable.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**
You will not always be in the best of moods and should be on your guard against offending others. Something you have been learning will begin to fall into place. Make sure you are correctly dressed for the occasion and climate.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)**
You will not be in the best of moods but something will happen to cheer you up. Your lucky numbers are 5 and 44. You should avoid doing anything that might give rise to envy. If you expect something for nothing you will not get it.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
You will have something to be pleased about but no reason for complacency. You should not take on more commitments than you can easily deal with. You should try to relax. Be prudent.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)**
You will be able to try another approach to a problem that has been defeating you. The less favourable influence of the Moon will tend to make you feel rather restless. You should try to rid yourself of some resentments.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**
You will all of a sudden discover what you have been doing wrong for a long time now. You should not allow yourself to succumb to a temptation to spend more than you can afford.

مكتبة



● The Kenyan Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Yonis Mahat (right) greets a Kuwaiti businessman at a reception Wednesday evening. The ambassador's visit to Kuwait comes as Kenya is promoting its goods in the local market. Mr Mahat said he hopes Kuwaiti businesses will take a look at what Kenyan exporters have to offer. Fresh fruit, cut flowers and honey are among the items Kenya would like to export to Kuwait.



● Mark Williams of the Arab Times Photographic Services recently went on a mission to Cairo to cover the activities of the Egyptian American Bank for their annual report. He was commissioned by Ali Halawi, accounts director of Public Graphics. Above: Mark with Halawi in front of the bank building.

1989 UMO officers announced

THE United Malayalee Organisation (UMO) recently elected new officers for the year 1989 at a meeting chaired by outgoing chairman N.V.K. Warriar.

R.V. Hyder Ali was elected chairman. The others are: Sakthikulangara Williams and Sayed Nissar (vice-chairmen); Aby Thomas Varicad (general secretary); Davadas Papinassy and Kunjahamed (secretaries); Babu Vadaknath (treasurer) and P.K. Ismath and V.K. Mohamamed Kunhi (auditors).



shown at the British Council. When Sam Lowry first sees Jill Layton he does not realise the complications she will bring into his life. A spoof on George Orwell's 1984, this film won the Bafta Award. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

Israeli Film Festival
AN Israeli film festival will be held in Kuwait from March 20 to 22. The following films will be shown:

March 20: Al Hodood Al Multahabah (1984); directed by Saeb Haddad, starring Sami Qattan, Hind Kamel, Qassem Mallak.

March 21: Al La'abah (1987); director: Mohammad Shukri Jamil, starring Abdul Rida, Qassem Mallak, Sana Abdul Rahman.

March 22: Sitta ala Sitta (1988); director: Khairiya Mansour; starring Yasseem Mallak, Laila Ahmad.

March 23: Urs Iraqi (1988); director: Mohd. Shukri Jamil; starring Qassem Mallak, Fatima Rabaa.

March 26: Hub fi Baghdad (1986); director: Abdul Hadi Al Rawi; starring Qassem Mallak, Sana.

March 27: Al Faris Wal Jabal; starring: Khalil Shawki, Susan Al Ali.

March 28: Shay Min Al Quwwah, starring Miquad Abdul Rida, Khalil Shawki.

March 29: Al Bait, starring Athar Khidr, Awatif Ibrahim.

All films will be shown at the auditorium of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Children not permitted inside the auditorium.

Japanese Movie
MARCH 23 (4-6 pm): A Japanese cartoon feature entitled "Future War" will be shown in Al Thuraya Room, 16th floor, Meridien Hotel. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

Jukebox 5
MARCH 18/22 (7 pm): Auditions for singers and dancers for the Sounds Great

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Mills will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Salhiya Complex, Mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

AN exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam is open at the gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St., daily except Friday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

Boushahri Gallery
GRAPHIC art by Bulgarian artists will go on show at 6 pm tonight at the gallery in Salhiya. It will be opened by Bulgarian Ambassador Angel Mantchev. It will be open to the public from tomorrow, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm, until March 28.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday - Wednesday, 4.30 - 5.30 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT. - Thurs. 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT. - Thurs. 9 am to 12 noon, 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Saudi House
SAT. - Thurs. 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts.

CINEMA
British Council
March 18/19 (6.30 pm): A feature film Brazil will be

production of Jukebox 5 at Sunshine School, Salwa. The show will be produced by Ken Winston with June Woolston and Phil Thomas as musical directors. Naash Hameed will choreograph the show. Dancers and singers must come prepared and bring dance gear and music with them. Performances will be on May 15 and 18. For details ring 5740256 or 5625316.

Children's Dance Recital
MARCH 21/22 (6 pm): Steps School of Ballet will present a children's dance recital in the theatre of the Kuwait English School, Salwa. Tickets, KD2, are available at KES from 5 to 7 pm on weekdays. Tel: 5629356 ext 55 (pm only) or 5616228.

Mary Poppins
MARCH 22 (5.30 pm) and March 23 (10 am): Mary Poppins, starring Julie Andrews as the nanny with a passion for magical adventures, will be shown at the British Council. The animation, live action and award-winning songs brought this film five Academy Awards. Admission free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Children and adults welcome. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

Beat Concert
MARCH 31: Vishal Arts present a beat concert featuring Symphony and Perfect Strangers from 10 am at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. At 6 pm the group will present a variety show with Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi music and folk dances. For details call Anthony D'Souza or Arjun Gehi. Tel: 2631826 or 2663693.

THEATRE
Malayalam Drama
APRIL 7: Gayathi Arts will present their first Malayalam drama "Karutha Pannam" at Indian Arts Circle. Written by Chandra Mohan and directed by Nandan Iringalakuda. For entry passes call 5643126.

ACT
MARCH 27, 28, 29, 30 (8 pm): ACT presents Jean Giraudoux' comic fantasy "The Madwoman of Chailot."

Al Andalus
Al Duniya Al Janah Yamama (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Mervat Ameen

Al Salamiya
Jamal Muhamal Ya Shaab (Arabic play)
Al Huma
Revolution
Starring: Al Pacino, Natasja Kinski

Drive-In
Kul Hada Al Hub (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shareef, Laila Alwi

Al Firdous
Rampur Ka Lakshman (Hindi)
Starring: Randhir Kapoor, Rekha

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Al Firdous
Rampur Ka

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NISSAN Stanza 1984 model, insured up to Sept 1989, white, automatic transmission, in good condition. KD550 ono. Tele. 5732857, 4-7 pm. (AT1-46513-3)

ROVER 3500, 1983 model, white, fully automatic, with sunroof, smoked glass, full options, in mint condition. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD1,750 ono. Tele. 2436222 (AT2-46517-3)

ISUZU 1800, 1984 model, automatic, white, recently serviced in good condition. KD 350 Tele. Mr. Hall, 3713657, after 4 pm. (AT1-46158-3)

BUICK Park Avenue, 1981 model, black, with 2 doors, registered up to February 1990. In good condition. KD900 Tele. 2449360, 8 am - 12 noon. (AT6-46488-3)

HONDA Accord 1983 model, fully automatic, blue, registered up to Sept 1989, in good condition. Tele. 5617529 (AT1-46491-3)

NISSAN Stanza, 1983 model, fully automatic, silver, in good condition KD 500, ono. Tele. Mr. Tommy, 5339137 (AT2-46523-3)

SUZUKI Swift 1.3, 1986 model, red, automatic, 41,000 kms, insured up to 1990 with 4 doors and AC, in good condition. KD1000. KD49 per month by 24 instalments. Tele. 2403260. (AT6-46496-3)

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HOUSEHOLD items, including bedroom furniture, sofa set and curtains for immediate sale. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. 2449360, 8 am - 12 noon. (AT6-46488-3)

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TECHNICS and Sony speakers, curtains, baby clothes and other items for sale. Tele. 5612924 (AT2-46522-3)

COMPLETE household, including furniture (mostly IKEA), TV, VCR, stereo, washer/dryer, carpet, drapes, refrigerator, cooker etc. of a 3-bedroom flat in Jabriya for sale. Tele. 5330728, after 3 pm. (AT1-46514-3)

HOUSEHOLD items including fridge, TV, sofa set, and beds for immediate sale. Tele. Babar Waseem, 5719241, after 1.30 pm. (AT1-46510-3)

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LADY secretary, Indian, 20 years old with 5 years experience in office routine and knowledge of word processing with transferable residence, seeks full-time employment. Tele. Mrs. D'Souza, 2421390-2, 9 am - 1.30 pm. (AT2-46526-3)

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MAID required to take care of an elderly woman during the daytime, in Salmiya. Tele. 2407467. (AT2-46520-2)

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Seventh-seeded Kelesi gets a beating

Graf and Evert enter Florida semifinals



Evert beats Fernandez

BOCA RATON, Fla., March 18. (Reuters) Top-seeded Steffi Graf moved one step closer to winning one of the three titles that eluded her last year by overwhelming Canadian Helen Kelesi to reach the Florida Women's Championship semifinals.

Graf pounded the seventh-seeded Kelesi 6-1 6-1 as all the semifinalists enjoyed easy passage in the \$300,000 tournament.

Upset

Third-seeded Chris Evert advanced with a 6-2 6-3 win over fellow-American Mary Joe Fernandez, the fifth seed, in a match that was briefly interrupted by rain in the final game.

Graf next faces fourth seeded Helena Sukova of Cze-

choslovakia, who put on an impressive serve-and-volley display in beating unseeded American Halle Cioffi 6-3 6-2.

Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, who plays Evert in the semifinals, scored a 6-3 6-2 win over American Terry Phelps, who upset defending champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina in the third round.

Graf, number one in the world, hit her groundstrokes with such authority that the 16th-ranked Kelesi found herself out of position throughout match and seldom had the chance to engage Graf in a rally of more than five shots.

The West German's serve was particularly impressive, producing six aces, including three on

second serves. An ace ended the 47-minute rout, in which Kelesi won the first game and then lost 10 in a row.

Best

Graf, who has dropped just six games in three matches, said it was one of her best matches of the year.

"I'm very confident at the moment. I felt perfect on the court. I hit the ball well...and I'm never letting up just because I'm winning easy," Graf said.

Evert, who is trying to regain the number three world ranking she lost to Sabatini two weeks ago, dictated the long baseline rallies with Fernandez and never gave her 13th-ranked compatriot an opportunity to implement her own strategy.



Yannick Noah returns a volley to Andre Agassi (Reuters wirephoto)

Noah knocks out Agassi

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., March 18. (Reuters) Yannick Noah of France put on a brilliant display of athletic ability to upset American Andre Agassi in the quarterfinals of the \$702,500 Indian Wells Grand Prix Tournament on Friday.

Noah, the 12th seed, ousted the third-seeded teenager 7-5 6-4 in a match filled with dramatic points and good sportsmanship.

The win lifted Noah into the semifinals against unseeded Jay Berger, who beat 10th-seeded fellow-American Brad Gilbert 6-4 6-4. Berger upset top seed Boris Becker on Thursday.

The other semifinal will have fourth-seeded Jimmy Connors against number seven Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia. Connors beat fellow-American Tim Mayotte, the sixth seed, 6-3 6-3. Mecir overcame 16th-seeded American Michael Chang 6-2 6-4.

Noah and Agassi traded

breaks early in their quarterfinal which contrasted the Frenchman's flamboyant serve-and-volley style with Agassi's powerful groundstroke game.

Agassi double-faulted twice in the 11th game to fall behind 6-5. Noah reached set point in the next game and seemed to win it when an Agassi return was called wide.

The umpire overruled the call over the protests of both players. Agassi eventually took the microphone to explain to the capacity crowd of 10,500 that he was yielding the point to Noah. That gave the Frenchman the set, 7-5.

There were more dramatics at deuce in the fifth game of the second set.

Twice Noah dived full length to retrieve apparent volley winners and he stretched again to win the point on his own forehand volley, leaving Agassi flat

on his back in amazement. Noah held for 3-3, then broke Agassi in the next game.

Games then went on serve with Noah finishing the match with another forehand winner.

"I was surprised and pleased," Noah said of Agassi's move to give him the set point. "He didn't have to give it to me."

Noah agreed the match might have been one of his most spectacular. "We had many beautiful rallies," he said.

Despite the defeat, Agassi said he had enjoyed himself. "I had a great time," Agassi said. "I'm not disappointed at all. I played much better today than I have the whole year."

The two will meet again in three weeks time in a Davis Cup match between the United States and France in San Diego, California.

"It may be more serious," Noah said. "But I hope the result is the same."

Johnson leads Pistons to victory past Celtics

NEW YORK, March 18. (AP) Vinnie Johnson scored 14 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter as the Detroit Pistons beat the Boston Celtics 106-98 for their ninth straight victory.

Johnson scored 12 straight Pistons points and 14 of 16 during a five-minute stretch that helped Detroit end Boston's four-game winning streak.

The Pistons led 81-77 early in the fourth quarter when Johnson got hot, carrying Detroit to a 97-87 lead with 4:43 remaining.

Boston closed the gap to 97-92 after a three-point play by Kevin McHale and a basket by Robert Parish, but Detroit got two free throws apiece from Jose Dumars and Rick Mahorn to make it 101-92 with 1:06 to go.

Dumars added 24 points for Detroit, and Isiah Thomas had 20. Parish led Boston with 20 points and McHale added 19.

Overtime

Bernard King hit a fallaway 3-point shot with two seconds left in overtime as the Washington Bullets rallied from a 21-point third-quarter deficit to defeat the New Jersey Nets 124-121.

Michael Jordan had 33 points and nine assists in his fourth straight game at point guard and Scottie Pippen scored 31 points, leading the Chicago Bulls to a 129-124 victory over the New York Knicks.

Karl Malone scored 31 points and John Stockton had 16 points and 15 assists as the Utah Jazz won their seventh straight game overall and 10th consecutive at home, 118-96 over the Miami Heat.

Kevin Johnson scored 20 of his game-high 39 points in the third quarter as the Phoenix Suns beat the Portland Trail Blazers 129-124.

Best

Magic Johnson's basket broke a 102-102 tie with 18 seconds remaining as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Dallas Mavericks 106-103 for their sixth straight victory.

Mitch Richmond scored 16 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter and keyed a 13-4 overtime run as the Golden State Warriors beat the Atlanta Hawks 127-118.

Rex Chapman scored 15 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and Kelly Tripucka added 18 points.

Chiles to sell majority shares of Texas Rangers

DALLAS, March 18. (AP) Texas Rangers owner Eddie Chiles said yesterday he has agreed to sell his majority shares to a group led by George W. Bush, the son of President George Bush.

Chiles twice had tried to sell the team to Edward L. Gaylord, but each attempt was rejected by American League owners.

Gaylord, who owns 33 percent of the team, must approve the sale. In addition, approval is needed from both Leagues, but that is expected to be routine.

"It's very important that the team stays in Texas and Bush has agreed to keep it here," Chiles said.

Commissioner Peter Ueberoth helped assemble the Bush group last month in Dallas. The group includes Edward "Rusty" Rose of Dallas, Richard Rainwater of Fort Worth and Bill Dewitte Jr of Cincinnati.

Chiles, who declined to give the purchase price, said he chose the Bush group because he wanted local ownership and "because they were the first to come up with an offer that I thought was good."

Sell

Chiles said he will remain chairman of the board but will sell all his shares, which amount to 58 percent. He also said he doesn't think Gaylord will try to block the sale.

"He is a good friend of mine," Chiles said. "I don't think he'll try to block it. He's too nice a guy to do that."

Lietzke leads in Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA, Fla., March 18. (Reuters) American Bruce Lietzke turned in his second steady round to open up a two-stroke lead over South African David Frost after 36 holes of the \$1.35-million Players Championship yesterday.

Lietzke posted a three-under-par 69 for a total of nine-under-par 135. Frost was tied with him until he bogeyed his 16th and 18th holes — numbers seven and nine on the course since he started on the 10th tee.

Tied

American Fred Couples was alone in third at 138. Defending champion Mark McCumber was tied for fourth at 139 along with fellow-Americans Chip Beck, Ben Crenshaw, Tom Kite, Gary Koch, Paul Azinger and Dan Pohl and Fulton Allem of South Africa.

Australian Greg Norman had the low round of the day as he toured the incoming nine in four-under-par 32 and finished with a 67. Norman, however, was still six strokes back at 141.

Jack Nicklaus, after a bogey on the closing hole, carded a 72 for one-under-par 143.

Sandy Lyle of Britain failed to

qualify for the second successive week as he added a 73 to his first-day score of 75 for a 148 total.

Singapore Open

Meanwhile, Taiwan's Lu Chien-Soon fired a blistering five-under-par 67 to take a one-stroke lead after the third day of the Singapore Open golf championship today.

Lu's three-round total of 11-under 205 put him a stroke ahead of Mexico's Carlos Espinosa, who shot a 69.

Espinosa, who finished last year's tournament eight-over-par, said fair weather and better course conditions accounted for the lower scores this year.

Overnight leader American E.J. Pfister led to third place two strokes behind Lu with his second consecutive 71 performance.

Catalan Open

In Spain, Brian Grant Turner produced the best round of his seven-year professional golf career to seize a share of the halfway lead with a 66 in the Catalan Open yesterday.

Turner's second round performance put him level on 139 with compatriot Mark Roe, who shot a 70. They lead by one shot from

a group of five including joint overnight leader David Ecob of Australia, who carded a 72.

Japan golf

In Shizuoka, Japan, first-round leader Koichi Suzuki of Japan shot a 3-under-par 69 today to retake the lead, by two strokes, of the 40-million-yen (\$307,700) Shizuoka Open golf tournament in Central Japan.

Suzuki, a 33-year-old Shizuoka native, slumped to a 78 yesterday, but scored six birdies against three bogeys today over the windy, 6,921-yard Shizuoka Country Club's Hamamatsu course. It lifted him to a 2-under-par 214.

The tournament is the first event in Japan's PGA season this year.

Seniors golf

In Johannesburg, South African Gary Player, American Orville Moody and New Zealander Bob Charles all shot two-under-par 70s yesterday to share the first-round lead of a \$250,000 seniors tournament.

The field in three-day, 54-hole, first National Bank Seniors Classic was limited to eight competitors, including black American Lee Elder.

Frost and Ardy score contrasting wins

LONDON, March 18. (UPI) Danish veteran Morten Frost and Indonesian Ardy Wirinata scored contrasting victories yesterday to set up a semifinal meet between the oldest and the youngest players in the \$120,000 All-England Open Badminton Championship.

The second-seeded Dane, 32 in two weeks time, took only 39 minutes to dispatch fifth-seeded Indonesian Eddy Kurniawan 15-8, 15-8.

Frost, a four-time winner here and finalist for the last seven years, was in immaculate form and has yet to be into double figures in his four-match run-up to the last four.

Wirinata, the 18-year-old

world junior champion, had a tough one-hour battle against England's Steve Baddeley before winning 15-5, 10-15, 15-11.

Baddeley, the Commonwealth champion, exposed flaws in his opponent's concentration, which wavered throughout the match.

The Indonesian seemed to be coasting through the decider when surging from 8-3 to 13-3, but he then made a string of unforced errors before clinching victory with a spectacular leaping smash.

The other semifinal features a meeting between two left-handers top seeded Chinese world champion Yang Yang and sixth-seeded Dane Poul-Erik Hoyer.

Biathlon World Cup

STEINKJER, Norway, March 18. (AP) Eirik Kvalfoss of Norway captured the 1989 Biathlon World Cup title by placing seventh in the 10-kilometre sprint final today. His total points score for the season was 195.

Kvalfoss, the 20-kilometre world champion this season, was the first Norwegian to win the title.

Interest

Chiles had thought about keeping his 58 percent interest in the Rangers because of the promise of the 1989 team, which includes Nolan Ryan, the career leader in strikeouts.

However, a source said Chiles' decision to sell was bolstered by his wife, Fran, who had seen him deal with the frustrations of being a baseball owner for almost a decade. The franchise, which began as the Second Washington Senators and moved to Texas in 1972, has never won a pennant.

Chiles, who once worked as a merchant seaman for \$29.50 a month, built an oil industry service company from three employees and a truck into the 2,000-employee Western Co.

He is chairman emeritus of Western, founded 49 years ago in Seagraves.

The company does offshore drilling in the North Sea, the Gulf of Alaska, the Gulf of Mexico, the Mediterranean and off the coast of Africa.



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League title-holders in FA Cup semifinals

Liverpool end brave Cup run of Brentford

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): Mighty Liverpool ended the brave run of lowly Third Division Brentford to claim their place in the semifinals of the English Football Association (FA) Cup today.

League title-holders Liverpool fired a three-goal salvo in the final 25 minutes to complete a 4-0 sixth round win and crush the stubborn resistance of the unfashionable London side.

Nottingham Forest stayed on track for a third Wembley Cup final appearance in one season with a 1-0 win at Manchester United in a match which drew a crowd of 55,052, the biggest of the English season.

Fought out
West Ham and Norwich fought out a goalless draw and will meet again next Wednesday, while Cup-holders Wimbledon, who defeated Liverpool in last year's final, travel to Everton for the fourth quarterfinal tomorrow.

Steve McMahon opened the Liverpool tally in the 16th minute but Brentford kept them at bay till the closing stages. John Barnes scored a beauty in the 65th minute and fellow England international Peter Beardsley grabbed two more in the 79th and 82nd.

It was a harsh finish for Brentford, who had belied their humble status in the middle reaches of the Third Division against a side which had netted nine goals in their last two First Division matches.

Departed
Garry Parker netted the 42nd minute goal which saw Nottingham Forest through to the semifinals for the second year running, but Manchester United departed bitterly, protesting they had been robbed.

Scottish striker Brian McLair was convinced he had volleyed an equaliser midway through the second half but referee Brian Hill waved play on, judging that Forest's Steve Hodge had

hooked the ball off the line.

The incident provoked furious exchanges between officials on the two rival benches as the match boiled up to a frantic climax, but Parker's tap-in from a pass by winger Franz Carr proved enough for Forest.

Forest, who last won the FA Cup in 1959, moved a step closer to their third Wembley appearance, their places in the finals of the League Cup and Simod Invitational Club tournament already assured.

Salvaging
West Ham, bottom of the First Division, clung to their hopes of salvaging a wretched year after withstanding the domination of Norwich, who are chasing both League and Cup honours in the best season in their history.

Norwich, whose only semifinal appearance dates back to their Third Division days in 1959, tormented West Ham, and winger Dale Gordon came desperately close, denied first by veteran goalkeeper Phil Parkes and later by the crossbar.

Standings
Tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points.

English Division One									
Arsenal	28	16	7	5	53	28	55		
Norwich	27	15	8	4	40	28	53		
Millwall	28	14	7	7	42	31	49		
Liverpool	26	12	9	5	41	20	45		
Nottingham Forest	26	10	12	4	38	28	42		
Coventry	28	11	9	8	36	28	42		
Derby	27	12	9	6	31	25	42		
Man. United	26	10	10	6	35	21	40		
Tottenham	29	9	11	9	42	39	38		
Wimbledon	26	11	5	10	32	31	38		
Everton	26	9	8	9	32	30	36		
Aston Villa	29	10	12	7	35	44	31		
Middlesbrough	28	8	13	7	31	44	31		
QPR	27	7	9	11	26	25	30		
Sheff Wed	28	7	9	12	23	37	30		
Leeds	28	7	8	13	28	39	29		
Southampton	27	6	11	10	39	51	29		
Charlton	28	6	10	12	31	43	28		
Newcastle	27	8	14	24	47	22			
West Ham	25	4	7	14	21	42	19		
English Division Two									
Chelsea	34	19	11	4	70	36	68		
Man City	35	19	9	7	58	33	66		
West Brom	35	15	13	7	53	32	58		
Blackburn	35	17	11	7	57	30	58		
Ipswich	35	17	13	5	56	45	56		
Watford	35	15	8	10	48	36	53		
Swindon	33	14	11	8	50	43	55		
Bournemouth	34	16	5	13	43	53			
Stoke	33	14	10	9	43	47	52		
Cardiff	32	13	10	9	49	40	49		



Beardsley: kicks two

English Division Three									
Leeds	34	13	10	11	60	38	49		
Barnsley	33	12	11	10	44	46	47		
Portsmouth	35	10	13	12	43	43	46		
Sheff U	34	11	11	12	43	45	44		
Bristol City	35	10	13	12	43	50	43		
Oldham	35	9	14	12	39	57	41		
Oxford	35	10	11	14	47	49	41		
Plymouth	34	11	8	15	39	48	41		
Reading	34	10	11	13	45	40	41		
Hull	34	10	8	16	42	54	38		
Brighton	34	5	9	20	35	52	37		
Sheff Wed	34	5	14	15	27	51	29		
Birmingham	34	5	9	20	35	52	37		
Walsal	34	4	11	19	29	57	23		

No matches played

English Division Four

English Division Four									
Wolves	33	22	7	4	77	33	73		
Port Vale	33	18	9	6	60	33	63		
Sheff U	31	19	5	7	70	35	62		
Sheff Wed	31	14	9	8	47	48	51		
B Rovers	33	15	11	7	54	37	56		
Fulham	34	16	6	12	53	50	54		
Bury	35	15	9	11	32	49	54		
Chesham	33	14	9	10	47	48	51		
Swansea	32	13	11	8	40	32	50		
Nottingham	34	12	10	12	44	39	46		
Huddersfield	32	13	6	13	41	49	45		
Brentford	34	10	10	14	48	54	40		
Man City	33	10	13	10	36	37	43		
Bristol City	32	12	7	13	34	40	43		
Northampton	35	13	4	18	30	58	43		
Reading	34	10	10	14	48	54	40		
Bolton	30	10	9	14	38	42	39		
Cardiff	30	10	9	11	32	39	39		
Blackpool	33	9	11	13	39	40	38		
Southend	31	8	11	14	38	56	35		
Chesham	34	9	5	20	32	69	32		
Wigan	31	7	9	15	35	43	30		
Aldershot	34	6	10	18	34	59	28		
Gillingham	34	6	4	24	29	62	22		

Scottish Division One									
Dundee	34	13	10	11	60	38	49		
Rangers	34	15	4	15	52	30	49		
Lincoln	35	13	7	15	52	34	46		
Cannock	33	12	9	12	42	40	45		
Leeds	32	13	6	13	35	38	45		
Stockport	35	10	14	11	44	36	44		
Grimsby	34	11	11	12	48	44	44		
York	33	12	8	13	43	49	44		
Hereford	34	11	10	13	50	52	43		
Doncaster	35	12	7	16	41	59	43		
Burnley	33	11	9	13	35	38	42		
Rochdale	34	11	9	14	45	61	42		
Halifax	34	12	9	13	39	41	41		
Hartlepool	33	11	7	15	34	52	40		
Peterborough	34	8	10	16	33	60	34		
Darlington	35	4	16	13	38	58	28		
Colchester	35	6	9	18	38	64	27		

No matches played

Scottish Division Two

Scottish Division Two									
Dumfries	30	18	5	7	51	32	41		
Airdrieonians	31	14	11	6	53	31	39		
Falkirk	30	16	6	8	52	30	38		
Clydebank	30	13	11	6	61	40	37		
Stirling	30	13	9	8	38	37	41		
St. Johnstone	30	12	9	9	41	31	33		
Raith	30	11	8	11	37	40	30		
Forfar	31	8	13	10	42	43	29		
Falkirk	31	8	14	9	47	50	28		
Montrose	31	9	13	12	42	27			
Ayr	30	10	7	13	45	39	27		
Kilmarnock	31	8	11	12	36	51	27		
Clyde	31	6	13	12	31	43	25		
Q of the South	30	2	7	21	32	71	11		

No matches played

Scottish Division Three

Scottish Division Three									
Albion	30	17	6	7	54	38	40		
Brechin	31	11	13	7	50	41	35		
Stirling	31	12	11	8	40	42	33		
Queen's Park	31	10	14	7	41	35	34		
East Fife	31	11	11	9	44	42	33		
Alloa	30	11	10	9	47	40	32		
Stirling	31	11	9	11	40	31			
Cowdenbeath	31	11	11	9	41	44	31		
Montrose	30	11	8	11	39	38	30		
Arbroath	31	10	11	10	46	48	30		
West Ham	31	9	13	12	42	27			
Dumfries	29	7	10	12	35	43	24		
Stenhousemuir	31	7	9	15	32	46	23		
Berwick	30	6	9	15	37	53	21		
North Cowdenbeath	30	6	9	15	37	53	21		

No matches played

English Football Association (F.A.)

Cup quarterfinals

Liverpool 4 Brentford 0

Man United 0 Nottingham Forest 0

West Ham 0 Norwich 0

(Replay next Wednesday)

Playing Sunday: Everton v Wimbledon

English Division One

Coventry 1 Tottenham 1

Luton 0 Sheff Wed 1

Middlesbrough 0 Derby 1

Millwall 2 Aston Villa 0

Postponed: Arsenal v Wimbledon

Liverpool v Charlton, Newcastle v Everton

United, Queen's Park Rangers v Manchester United, West Ham v Southampton

English Division Two

Birmingham 1 Walsal 0

Blackburn 4 Hull 0

Bournemouth 2 Swindon 1

West Ham 0 Watford 1

Crystal Palace 1 Sunderland 1

Ipswich 2 Shrewsbury 0

Man City 2 Oxford 1

Oldham 1

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Plymouth 1 Leicester 1

Preston 0 Stoke 0

West Brom 1 Brighton 0

Playing Sunday: Barnsley v Leeds

English Division Three

Aldershot 2 Chesterfield 0